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Canada's

Weekly Newsmagazine

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Nelly Furtado

From the Editor

The good, the bad and the news

Early in my journalism career, I worked for one of those graffiti-edition-with-a-heart-of-gold who appear so often in movies and television, and more seldom in real life. For no particular reason I can recall, he informed me one day that when it comes to learning about life, people can be divided into two groups—"those who have 20 years of experience versus those who have one year's experience repeated 20 times." The point is, I'm in journalism after a while to presume that, whenever the story goes to cover something like it before, so you come looking for new angles or nuances. That's also why it's important to get out of the office on a regular basis, in order to avoid being opinionated solely upon conversations with other journalists.

Last week, I was invited to a lunchtime meeting of the Canadian Club chapter in Kingston, Ont. At the end of our session, one participant declared politely but pointedly that it's time for us and other media outlets to start paying more on unpaid news, and so pay less attention to the events of Sept. 11 and the aftermath. The depth of tragedy is understood by everyone, she said, so there's nothing to be gained by dwelling on that topic at the expense of everything else.

This week's news, by coincidence rather than design, falls that way, as our 16th annual Honour Roll once distinguished Canadians and their accomplishments. As has been the case for nine years, the package was overseen by Executive Editor Michael Benedict, who assembles hundreds of nonacademic from readers and staff each year with, he says, "a new list beginning as soon as the old one ends."

So that's a week for highlighting some-

thing positive. But overall, finding the right mix between the good and bad news we report on will always be an imperfect science, because no two readers share identical priorities or outlooks on the world. As well, the most important story of the week isn't always the most astounding one: most of the time, it's also not the happen one. There's an old saying to the effect that no one reports on planes landing safely, or houses that don't burn down. And news is presumed to sell best, although some editors try to buck that trend—and do so with disastrous results. Shortly after *USA Today* was launched in 1982, it covered an airline crash in an upbeat way, referring to the "miracle" of how many passengers survived, rather than how many died. For years, that piece was cited as an example of the paper's shallowness—long after it significantly improved its content.

In the end, the decisions we make about what topics to highlight, and the way we cover them, are based as much on gut feel as on experience. There's a long-standing tendency for media outlets to chase the same news, which inevitably affects the tone and direction of public discourse. There's a flawed process which becomes even more so when people at our business forget that a national conversation involves, by definition, listening as well as speaking up. That's why my first New Year's resolution is one that may well likely want to continue: I resolve to keep going out of the office on a regular basis.

Andy Uhl-Lohr



Benedict keeps bits

Maclean's

Canada's Weekly Newsmagazine

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We sacrifice nothing to bring you high-end 35mm photos. Except the camera.

For the longest time, if you wanted to take pictures wherever you went you had to bring a camera wherever you went. (Japanese tourists have known this for centuries.)

The human memory being what it is, that meant many a picnic, bar mitzvah and impromptu birthday party went sadly undocumented.

But those days disappeared forever with the arrival of the one-time use camera. Pre-loaded with film and available just about everywhere, it changed the lives of forgetful photographers forever.

You picked one up. You took your photos. You turned it in for developing. Really, what could be better?

Well, that's the question we kept asking ourselves. What could be better?

Introducing the Kodak Max HQ - the best one-time-use camera ever.

That's why we developed the Kodak Max HQ, the first one-time use camera designed to take pictures as good as a regular point-and-shoot 35mm camera.

It struck us that if we created a camera with a better lens, better film and a better flash, well, the quality of the pictures would get better too. We know. Genius.

So we started with a sharp, two-element Exakta lens.

Impress your friends by telling them it's the same kind of lens found in many 35mm cameras. In fact it's the best lens ever used in a one-time-use camera, providing images that are consistently clear and crisp.

We then loaded the Max HQ with Kodak Max, the best all-purpose film we make. It's remarkably versatile film, offering bright, colourful pictures across a wide range of conditions, from daylight, low light, action and all.

Then we turned our attention to the flash, not usually a strong point in these kinds of cameras. Our simple-to-use



With a built-in Exakta Max HQ and a regular 35mm camera. One, actually the same, automatic recharge lets you shoot again and again without having to press a recharge button. Heaven.

The best lens, best flash and best Kodak film all add up to better pictures.

The result of all our tinkering? The only one-time-use camera that actually takes pictures as good as your regular 35mm point-and-shoot camera.

We think that you're going to love this camera so much you're going to hate turning it in for developing. But just remember the memories are yours to keep forever.



Share Moments Share Life™

Out of money—and credit

You have perceived a most accomplished of the spiralling debt problems facing many Canadian consumers ("The debt boards," *Cover*, Dec. 10). As a trustee in bankruptcy, I am witnessing an uncontrolled growth in personal debt. Retail conservatism, manifesting itself in often of as money down and no payment until whenever, zero-per-cent interest rates and the constant media bombardment of buy, buy, buy is frequently too much for consumers who have been conditioned to believe that more is better. Their disposable income has been exhausted in meeting normal living expenses. They are no longer able to take cash advances on credit cards to make the minimum monthly payments on their consumer debts, such as other credit cards, bank loans, or loans, etc. Many Canadians are having to consider declaring bankruptcy because they no longer have the ability to service their financial obligations.

Brian A. McInnis, London, Ont.

It would read something like this: watch your spending, and buy only what you need, work hard and save for a rainy day, get good health insurance and pay for a great marriage.

Scott Oliver, London Ont.

A few years ago, I was a young single mom with two kids and limited resources. I was careful with money, had no debt and was able to get by on a part-time income and child support. I got married in 1993 and my new husband earned a decent wage. So I started using credit more and more because I thought there was more money coming in. I now owe about \$2,000 on my MasterCard and about \$250 on my Zeller card. But after reading this article, I didn't hesitate—I cut up the Zeller card. And I'm going to keep the MasterCard in my sock-and-under drawer. Thanks for the eye-opener.

Alicia Eastman, Regina

There's only one sure way to keep out of debt: It happens to be the one essential element of budgeting: don't spend more than you take in. Unfortunately, our society—including our governments—has forgotten that elementary lesson in economics.

Orlando K. Jones, Toronto, Ont.

Your article suggested throwing away the credit-card invitation envelopes unopened. You should have and unopened and ripped into thirds. Identity thieves thrive on unopened credit-card pitches. All they have to do is fill in the pertinent data, detail a change of address, and they have a credit card delivered to them with your name on it.

Bonnie MacDougall, Calgary

'Uncertainty and fear'

Your report of Wahabi mosques and schools such as Umm Al-Qura in Canada is very troubling ("Divided by fear," *Canada and the World*, Dec. 10). How can those

The Canadian way

I was delighted to say that I have been able both to attain my Canadian citizenship and to sit in the British Parliament. So could have Conrad Black, if he had mood (successfully) for election and democracy, instead of for the aristocracy and feudal privilege ("Over and Under Achievers," *Cover*, Nov. 12).

Rob Marsh, MP (Windsor-Essex South-West, House of Commons, London)

who teach their children intolerance and hatred of non-Muslims as "infidels" and "the enemy" expect tolerance and acceptance of themselves and their children in Canadian society? And how can ordinary Canadian Muslims expect to escape their present shadow of uncertainty and fear if they do not get off the fence and renounce the extremism in their midst?

David Gottle, Napanee, Ont.

Our courts sentenced Holocaust denier Jim Keegans for allegedly hating that the Jews are our enemies. Will these same courts now prosecute those Muslims for preaching hate in school and mosques? Or would that be politically incorrect?

H. L. Wipacat, Oshawa, Ont.

We have lived in the Kennedy-Eglinton area of Toronto for nearly 10 years and have never heard anyone call our neighbourhood "Little Beirut." That name diminishes the rich diversity of this community that surrounds the mosque in your story. Our area could just as easily be called "Little Beirut" or "Little Bombay" or a dozen other names, as we have significant numbers of people from all five continents in our community. That's what makes us proud to live and raise our children here.

Joel Kline and Barry van Brummel, Toronto

High drama

I was quite taken aback by a comment by the McGill campus tour guide regarding the "youth department" at McGill University ("Choosing the right university," *Cover*, Nov. 19). As Ann Downer Johnson reports, a mother from Connecticut said, "Does McGill have a young theatre department?" And the guide replied, "No. In fact, I would say we have a trouble



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theatre department." I am a graduate of the drama and theatre stream through the English department at McGill, and I couldn't disagree more. Allen true that the drama and theatre program does not cater to students who plan to make their livelihood on the performing arts, McGill provides a strong academic background in the study of drama. Furthermore, the campus theatre scene at McGill is alive and well with three active theatres for general use. Theatre at McGill (not necessarily as part of the program) is vital not only to the McGill community, but to the Anglophone community of Montreal.

Jessica Francis, Toronto

Marconi and Tesla

I enjoyed your article on the Marconi centennial ("The dot-dot-dot revolution," History, Dec. 10). Your mention of Guglielmo Marconi moving to Cape Breton when his work was stymied in Newfoundland by the Anglo-American Telegraph Co. brings to mind an interesting snippet of Canadian history. Not long after Marconi was sold by the Anglo-American that it had a monopoly over transatlantic transmissions, he was sitting in a St. John's restaurant obviously feeling sorry for himself. Enter a friendly stranger to whom Marconi points out the story about the telegraph company and his problems with it. The stranger turned out to be a senior Canadian postal official on a visit and, after their chat, he contacted the dynamic postmaster general in the Laurier government, William Mulock (presumably by telegraph), and told him that Marconi was on to a good thing. Mulock swiftly moved to offer Marconi the hospitality of Canada for his experiments in return for some concessions. So if the Anglo-American had not enforced its monopoly, and if Marconi hadn't coincidentally run up with the Canadian official, he would probably not have come to Cape Breton. But that's history for you.

Prof. Robert Plax, Department of Sociology, Queen's University Kingston, Ont.

Marconi may have received the first wireless transmission, but he did not invent radio. His patent application in 1890 was rejected as a duplicate of Nikola Tesla's patent, which predated Marconi's by more than three years. In 1943, the U.S.



Afghan children will remember the horrors

Supreme Court affirmed Tesla is the sole inventor of radio. Tesla, who held 112 patents at the time of his death, pioneered many technological items that we take for granted today, including alternating current and electric motors. Due to his complete lack of business sense, he never got rich and has been mostly forgotten, but the world would be much different without his inventions.

Scott Carpenter, Knoxville, N.S.

More bitter, angry people?

After reading the article "Try the children" (Canada and the World, Dec. 10), I wonder if the children of Afghanistan are just considered collateral damage to the fight against terrorism. In averting the acts of Sept. 11, certainly in the midst of making our world a safer place with the extinction of fanatics and those who harbour them, are we not creating (or perpetuating) another generation of bitter, disillusioned and angry people? These children will remember their formative years as containing all the horrors that war can bring. I worry that the educational and health benefits that will be necessary in the aftermath of this war will be forthcoming once the ultimate goal—getting Osama bin Laden—is reached. The U.S.-led forces have the power to assist in bringing these children to adulthood without bitterness and further blood. Furthermore, I hope that we are not teaching children all over the world that revenge is the right way to solve problems.

Tracy E. Hamilton, Simsbury, Conn.

Foth and Air Canada

Perhaps after he recovers from his questioning made against Air Canada and its boss, Robert Milnor ("Dear Bob: Get real?" Dec. 10), Allan Fotheringham might pause to consider how the rest of us—who can't afford to fly anywhere—fied about Air Canada's innumerable dense, Milnor labour unions and their insidious wage demands have overloaded the plane with excess baggage, rendering Air Canada too bloated to fly. More laughable is Milnor's brazening. Other Tuzi resume with the federal government, accusing blame for Air Canada's problems on Osama bin Laden. Air Canada should be made to sink or swim on its own. It's the only way to survive in the real world of airline competition in a more cautious world. Take away, I will be keeping my feet on the ground for now.

Mark Allen White, Toronto

Amen, Allan Fotheringham. Put the idle peanuts and give me the window seat. A flight over the Canadian Rockies is as good as it gets.

Geoff Allen, Guelph, Ont.

Over many years of travelling, I have found Air Canada to be far better than most American and European airlines, only exceeded by some, such as Cathay Pacific, in terms of meals and service. On a recent trip, the meals, even in economy class, were very good and the flight attendants were efficient, friendly and attentive. Furthermore, my worst case of baggage loss (disputed) to Rome (for four months) was only by Air Canada!

Leo Barker, Ottawa

The solution to Air Canada's woes is right in front of our eyes: put Allan Fotheringham in charge. With the improved pay he could stay aloft forever, continuing to identify Really Big Problems affecting the industry: giggling flight attendants, bad food, dumb movies and—worst of all—a humiliating loss. Al could offer a more challenging ride than the diversions found on those bad days. How about samples of his side-splitting columns, or would folks of laughter from fellow passengers distract him from Canada's magnificence—as seen through a six-by-10-inch window above the clouds at 35,000 feet?

Laurie Ward, Paris (leaving BC)

GOALS:

To leave that fake holey with a medal and a smile. Well, at least a medal.

Pat Quinn



ASSISTS: When Team Canada hits the ice this winter, they'll be able to count on Mr. Quinn for fierce leadership and guidance. And Esso for support. Through many Canadian Hockey programs and events, including Esso Medals and Certificates of Achievement, we've helped develop some of the best hockey talent in the world. Including several players on our Canadian squad. And this February, that's a fact that should make Mr. Quinn very happy. On the inside.



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Overture

Edited by Shanda Deziel with Amy Cameron

P.J. rounds things off

One might think the title "Funniest writer in America" would carry with it a certain amount of pressure—but not surprisingly P.J. O'Rourke just laughs it off. "Actually, a lot of it is mine," the *Wall Street Journal* wrote that he says. "Now that I think about it, I feel over him driver." O'Rourke, best

known for his work in *Rolling Stone*, is the author of 35 books. His most recent, *The GIG of the Day*, documents a year in home, discussing, among other things, the *New Economy* and road babies. With a gin in one hand and a cigar in the other, O'Rourke, 54, sat down to finish some sentences

started by Michael's Resurrection. **Author John Klein** "to star as a star in the dance club music." **At the head** "was just in case the Taliban had won." **The worst sentence I've ever written** "was it a letter to a high-

school girlfriend?" **Sadism Kussell** "It's proof that cursing is decided from common sense. Now, that was pretty deep!" **The coolest president was** "Coolidge! He was way cool!" **I don't have an opinion on** "...my wife's family."



Bell (left) and Dowrick on

Curling their way to world recognition

Five years ago, **Richard Foss** was cutting an ash tree in the woodlot on his farm near Stratford, Ont., when he was struck by a limb. Left paralyzed and confined to a wheelchair, the mild-mannered 35-year-old thought his involvement with the sport was over. "I was paralyzed from the hips down," said Foss. "My arms weren't affected, but I never dreamed I'd be back." That couldn't have been further from the truth. Last week, the 35-year-old was

named a member of Canada's newly initiated wheelchair curling team. **Keren (Miriam) Blackhead** and **Chris (Thompson) Dow** of London, Ont., **Donald (Dagmar) Bell** from Point Edward, Ont., and **Jim (Pete) Pinnover** from Toronto fill out the roster. The team is currently preparing for the World Wheelchair Curling Championships in Swiss, Switzerland (Jan. 21 to 26), the World Curling Association's first sanctioned wheelchair event.

Canada's first team took one shot at the chair to release the rock, or use a specially designed "curling stick" to push the rock down the ice. And there is one major difference between wheelchair curling and the able-bodied version: no sweepers. "It's completely up to the curler to judge the proper weight and line," says Blackhead, who this year became Canada's first paraplegic hockey referee. "Precision is key."

John Klein



By Shanda Deziel

Over and Under Achievers

Benched by the budget

→ **Edna Tabin**, Dream of wild when cashes in federal budget. As modest little it's a drag when your leadership rival controls the purse strings.



→ **Joel Witkowski**, Honoured with lifetime achievement award by National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences in the U.S., Saskatchewan songbirds is looking at his from the upside now.

→ **Sean Burke**, Phoenix goalie looking to be part of Canadian Olympic team, even as a sub-A lesson. In pistons for players who would rather stay home than ride the bench.

→ **Lawrence MacAulay**, Solicitor general was't meet still libertarians using **Robert LaPlante**'s defense from prison. No reason? It's not appropriate to listen to advocates. What other way is there to decide?

TO UNDERSTAND HOW A FAMILY ESTATE FROM A PLACE YOU'VE BARELY HEARD OF WON WINERY OF THE YEAR, YOU DON'T NEED THE HISTORY. A LITTLE GEOGRAPHY WILL DO.



The physical nature of the Okanagan Valley has a truth to it that exceptional wines understand. Breathtaking summer days with a lingering warm fall encourage the grapes to ripen to full potential. Cool nights preserve the flavours.

Moderating influences of breezes arrive from the long lazy stretch of lakes. The Coastal Mountains provide a curtain from rain. When the great place is revealed, they left with the tenacity and fine granulation ideally suited to grow unique grapes.

CANADA'S ONLY DESERT

Here in the northern tip of the Sonoran Desert, small miracles are being nurtured by the family's winemaker John Jones. His philosophy is deceptively simple, "what happens in the vineyard and its terrain is what happens in the bottle."

The only way to produce the exceptional wines the family envisioned was to cultivate



their own lands. Total control of the grapes from planting through to the bottle was essential. The family now farms eleven individual vineyards.



Under the full moon of the desert estate now measured in harvest.

This year, at the first-ever Canadian Wine Awards, Mission Hill Family Estate earned recognition as "Winery of the Year." The wines proved worthy of their elevation. We expect they'll also prove worthy of yours.

THIS IS YOUR YEAR

We invite you to celebrate the rather remarkable results of these Canadian wines. Smaller volumes further reduced by careful pruning to heighten the intensity of the grapes. Limit availability of vintages in Ontario. Look or ask for them in the BC section of the LCBO.

You may proceed to the top of the class.



MISSION HILL
Family Estate

Winery of the Year - 2003 Canadian Wine Awards



Overbites

Last week, CanWest Global began naming "national editors" within its Winnipeg corporate headquarters, in all of its Southern papers, precipitating a war of words between the paper family—the company's owners—and some employees.

"We believe that an attempt to impose a single opinion to serve the corporate interests. The first editorial calls on the federal government to reduce and eventually abolish capital-gains taxes for private foundation funds. Who would blame a reader for thinking the editorial simply serves the interests of the foundation run by the paper family?"—relative reaction from employees of Southern Mainline (Quebec), who a parent renewed their loyalty from articles.

"Reporters at the Globe have launched a children's protest. If they are so concerned, why don't they just quit and leave the country of their consciences?"

—David Archer, board member of CanWest

Street smart

Smart roads are just around the corner. A new four-lane, 156-km stretch of the TransCanada highway from Montreal to Fredericton has been designed to help make driving safer—and improve the use of road salt at a time when Ottawa is looking into its effect on the ecosystem. This is how the \$550,000 high-tech highway system works: sensors on the road monitor pavement conditions, how companies are treating the weather, and infrared thermometers attached to patrol vehicles read the road's temperature. That information is fed to computers in maintenance depots. Flow tests are then dispatched carrying just the right bit of salt demanded by the conditions.

The info is also combined with computerized weather forecasts and radar images pulled from the Internet so crews can anticipate a storm. Then, perhaps a mix of brine—a salt and water combo—will be laid down before the storm hits to keep ice and snow from sticking to the high-



way. "You really have to be looking ahead, and that's one of the benefits of the road weather information system," says **Richard Seitz**, general manager of MRC Operations Corp., the firm that designed and will maintain the highway. "At the same time we get data about what is happening now, the same information is going to maintenance crews who are sent the data to give us a forecast for us as to what is going to happen to the road surface."

The firm plans to use conventional road salt more sparingly, saving on

costs—both manually and environmentally. Under its contract, the company is responsible should salt pollute nearby waters. That jobs with workers in Ottawa about the estimated five million tonnes of road salt used across the nation every year. The government is looking at ways to reduce its use and believes high-tech highways can help. According to **Bernard Maki**, the chief of chemicals control for Environment Canada, "This is going to be the way of the future."

David Sternbever

Hiding out at the New Yorkers' museum

Since Sept. 11, many of New York's big-name museums and art galleries have been forced to cancel major shows and lay off staff. But that hasn't been the case for the Brooklyn Museum of Art. "While probably the world's largest contemporary museum," says the BMMA's new Canadian deputy direc-

tor for art, **Marc Mayer** (2), "While the New Yorkers' museum."

What they get instead of tourists are local—and plenty of attention. In 1999, the museum drew risk for a controversial exhibition called *Sensation* that featured among other things, a portrait of the Virgin Mary that incorporated a leather dung

Major **Kathleen Glickson** promptly threatened to cut off public funds to the BMMA. But after a court battle, the city was compelled to return the money it had withheld.

The museum continues to attract attention, including letters of thanks for staying open on Sept. 12 and 13. "New Yorkers needed a place to go and hide," says **Sallymore Beer** (1). Mayer took the BMMA off to other side of Toronto on Nov. 18, when, relations **Michael Bloomberg** was elected mayor, replacing **Quinn** in contrast to his predecessor. Bloomberg is a philanthropist. "Heard of the art," says Mayer. Regularly among the very first people to see *Sensation*, Bloomberg is also, according to Mayer, "a friend of the Brooklyn Museum." And for the beleaguered Big Apple, it's good news. **David Wright**

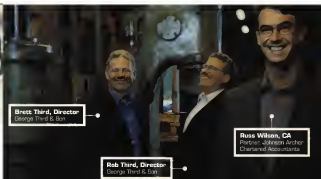
Mayer at the popular BMMA



Lloyd then (1976) and now

Mr. Trustworthy

On Dec. 18, CTV celebrates **Lloyd Robertson's** 25th anniversary at the network with a documentary on his career. Here are some facts behind the star: a Robertson was born in Stratford, Ont., on Jan. 13, 1934. He has a brother, roughly 4,000 regular CTV newscasters. He has four daughters and seven grandchildren. He has trouble for certain in politics and crime. A *Readers of TV Guide* have voted Robertson "most trusted TV journalist" in recent 10 years. And that is the kind of life he's led.



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Over to You LIBBY ZNAMER

A Merry Christmas for all

It's my dirty little secret: I love Christmas—the parties, the presents, the sheer excess. As my husband, Doug, keeps asking incredulously, "What's not to like?" He's Anglican and I'm Jewish. Sure, sometimes I long for my carnivore youth, when Christmas Day means movies and Chinese food, and December was the only month I stayed away from the malls. But after 11 years of marriage, I'm ready to abandon all pretense of having the holiday just for him.

It wasn't always this way. I'll never forget the first time he brought home a Christmas tree. As he dragged the evergreen across our threshold, I sat on the stairs nervously dividing the marital property. Why couldn't he understand my reservations? It's not that I object to sharing another tradition—I happily attend church with his family on Christmas. It's just that for me, a tree is the ultimate symbol of assimilation. It's the unsettling, shiny thing with the power to make you turn your back on your own culture.

That argument wasn't working at home, so I tried it at work. Steve, my boss, gave me a bemused look and said, "You can't take the guy's Christmas tree away from him." Of course he was right. I rushed home sufficed with the spirit of loving generosity. "Honey, we can keep the tree," I told Doug, "but those cheesy ornaments definitely have to go. I'm in charge of decorating."

Recently, I've learned I am not alone in making concessions about Christmas. Anur Sodhi, a supervising editor at *City* who is Sikh, moved to Calgary from Chandigarh, India, at the age of 12. When he immigrated with his mother and brother, the game plan was to blend in and adopt Canadian customs as much as possible. But in the last few years, he's reconnected with his Sikh heritage. "We celebrate Christmas at home because my wife's Christian. But I'm sort of indifferent," he says. "Christmas shopping and decorating aren't at the top of my list. There are times when I feel completely overwhelmed by it—it becomes just a chore."

The tree was never an issue for my colleague, Khalid Mohammed, who describes himself as a semi-observant Muslim. His wife, Dorcas Maiano, is from a traditional Portuguese Catholic family. Their first child, Lara, was born on Nov. 25. "When he's older, he'll help me set up the tree and pick the ornaments," says Khalid. "I'll be our family tradition." Khalid's mother and father bought him his own tree when he



My Jewish friends and relatives took an interest in my yuletide angst

was small. "It wasn't on display, it was in my room," he recalls. "It was their concession to the fact that I was a little boy living in this country. But when I got older, Dad decided that Christmas was too Christian a thing to do, and he dumped the tree." Now the Maiano-Mohammeds celebrate both the Mafim Eidi—the holiday commemorating the end of Ramadan—and Christmas Eve with their extended families.

"When my parents come on the 26th, we have to make sure to order a *dolci* turkey," says Khalid.

Once the tree made it into our home, my friends started giving me decorations as gifts—useful trinkets: silver balls and glass icicles, which seemed like tokens welcoming me into the tribe. My Jewish friends and relatives took an interest in my yuletide angst. Suddenly I heard from everyone who ever harbored a secret desire to celebrate Christmas. "I longed for a Christmas tree," sighed my friend Sandy. "You're lucky. You have the perfect excuse." "A tree smells so nice," said my soon-to-be Marilyn, who has taken to buying us seasonal gifts. A few years back, I swapped one to find a beautiful circular fabric with a slit on one side. I had no idea what it was. "It's a Christmas tree skirt," she said, looking at me with pity. "You put

it around the bottom to hide the tree stand."

My problem with Christmas has always been that it's everywhere, all the time, for weeks. The retail marketing machine is in overdrive. But it's not just Christmas that's been commercialized. Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, has also become mainstream. Our local supermarket's window features a display of electric menorahs alongside artificial trees. I've even seen evergreen cactuspicks adorned with Jewish stars and dyed bright blue, the colour of the Israeli flag.

In the end, I'll reach either bare or tree. As for ornaments, I'm still not convinced. Once I strung a few lights and draped some tulle across the boughs, I realized it was just enough. My husband was delighted when I surprised him with a fully decorated spruce. But some of our friends turned up their noses when they saw it. "Oh," they exclaimed, "a designer tree." A Christmas where less is more isn't for everyone, but it's perfect for us.

Libby Znamer, City's money specialist, and her husband, Doug, will spend another season snipping up pearly tree needles.

Photo: Peter Westcott



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The Week That Was

New proof in killings

Rumors about the massacre have haunted Mexican politics for decades. On Oct. 2, 1968, just days before Mexico City was to host the Olympic Games, student protesters and soldiers clashed in a bloody melee in the city's working-class Tlatelolco neighborhood. According to official versions, 40 people were killed and 300 people were massacred—and last week they claimed a series of black-and-white photographs



One of 21 photos from 1968

anonymously handed over to the Mexican magazine *Proceso* help prove a government cover-up. Among the 21 frames, taken by an official government photographer, are photos of bloodstained staircases guarded by soldiers—and white-gloved penitentiaries, which past governments had claimed were not involved. The pictures appeared just after Mexican President Vicente Fox said he would appoint a special prosecutor to investigate abuses at the hands of the police and army.

Timely bonuses

Even though 1,600 CBC union workers are expected to be on the picket lines during the holiday season, they will still receive their Christmas bonuses. The members of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union, who handle the cameras, lights and audio for CBC radio and TV programs nationwide, will get \$500 each—a total payout of \$800,000. The workers went on strike on Dec. 7

Anti-Muslim bombs and 'a nice Jewish boy' from Montreal

Grating up in Montreal's Jewish community in the 1950s, Irving Rubin loved the neighborhood stories of the Nazi death camps. These tales struck home, and stayed with him when he moved with his family to California at the age of 15. Then, in 1971, Rubin heard a speech by Jewish Defense League founder Rabbi Meir Kahane, who said "If you are a nice Jewish boy."



Rubin in February (left); Krugel in 1960 with a submachine gun

He quickly joined the organization, becoming chairman in 1975. When Kahane was assassinated in New York City in 1990, Rubin kept the submachine gun after, taking on neo-Nazi and Arab activists and, in the process, being arrested 40 times. Last week, Rubin, 65, was picked up by the FBI of his Los Angeles home and charged with conspiring to set off three bombs, including one at the King Fahd Mosque in the suburbs of Cedar City, Calif.

Earl Krugel, 58, was arrested along with Rubin after explosives planted for a bomb the pair were allegedly making were delivered to his home by a fellow JDL member who was working undercover for the police. Additionally,

the two men also planned to bomb the city's Muslim Public Affairs Council and the San Clemente office of U.S. Representative Donald Rumsfeld, who is of Lebanese descent. Police said they secretly taped Rubin saying the JDL needed to do something about their "dirty" mosques, and also found a large cache of weapons in his home. If convicted, the pair would receive a 30-year sentence, but Rubin's attorney claimed his client was innocent and the charges were "an overreaction to the Sept. 11 events."



CBC strikers keeping warm

to protect the CBC's plan to cut \$5 million in costs by reducing the amount of money it pays in pension and shift premiums.

A belated apology

The federal government apologized for the executions of 23 Canadian soldiers during the First World War—all volunteers who went out after being convicted of desertion or cowardice. Their names will be added to the Book of Remem-

brance which contains the list of the nation's war dead and is located in the Peace Tower. The Canadians were among 396 Commonwealth soldiers shot for desertion between 1914 and 1918. The apology does not erase their convictions, but Minister of Veterans Affairs Ron Duhamel said the House the apology was made because "they too lie in foreign fields."

Suicide raid

In an unprecedented attack on the heart of the world's largest drug-smuggling network, armed with guns, grenades and bombs stormed the national parliament complex in New Delhi, killing seven people before they were killed themselves. While no group claimed responsibility for the attack, Foreign Minister Jaitley

Singh said the government has evidence the attack was carried out by the Pakistan-based Kashmiri separatist group Lashkar-e-Tehrik. The militant group has been leading a 15-year revolt against New Delhi's rule in Kashmir, India's only Muslim majority state.

Squeeze play

For a while, it looked as though the Montreal Expos might be able to say "we're off next year." But after a deal between major league baseball owners and the players union to delay contract for a year led through, owners are now asked to cut two franchises from the 30 team league. The Expos and the Minnesota Twins are considered the most likely candidates because of poor records and stadium issues, but a Minnesota court issued an



Bush making the big announcement.

Washington bids farewell to the ABM treaty

For nearly 30 years, the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty stood as the cornerstone of nuclear arms control. Based on the theory of mutually assured destruction, or MAD—that one nuclear state is unlikely to attack another because it would face a devastating counterstrike—the 1972 treaty restricted nuclear missile defenses. But in a historic break with Russia, George W. Bush, who called the ABM treaty one of the last legacies of the Cold War, signed Moscow with formal notice



Not MAD

that Washington was withdrawing from the pact. The move frees the U.S. to conduct tests believed by the treaty to be vital for the ever-evolving missile defense shield. "The events of Sept. 11 made all too clear the greatest threats to both our countries come not from each other or other big powers," Bush said, "but from terrorist attacks which strike without warning or major states who seek weapons of mass destruction." Critics say the U.S. action undermines global strategic

balance, because deployment of an effective defense by one country effectively classifies other nuclear states, leaving them to take expensive countermeasures. China, for one, warned that a new arms race could ensue, as have some U.S. allies, including Britain, and Japan. In Ottawa, Prime Minister Jean Charest said the treaty would be replaced, then added "by what I don't know." Russian President Vladimir Putin called the U.S. decision "a mistake." But according to U.S. administration officials, Putin assured Bush during talks in October that U.S.-Russian relations would not suffer even if Bush pulled out of the treaty.

agreement on Nov. 12 that would force the Twins to play in their home stadium next season. The injunction is under appeal, and the players' union has filed a grievance to block contract outright.

Staying on the Rock

The Supreme Court of Newfoundland ruled that Dr. Shirley Turner, accused of killing her former lover in Peapackham, must remain in Newfoundland until the terms of her extradition to the United States are finalized. Turner 40, originally from Canada's Halifax Nfld., is charged with first-degree murder in connection with the shooting death of her lover, 29-year-old Andrew Bagby, in Westwood County, Pa. She was set to pay \$75,000 and Turner was forced to turn over her pass-

port. The couple met in the late 1990s when they were studying medicine at Memorial University in St. John's.

Scales of justice

A tribunal of the Canadian Transportation Agency ruled that disability is not a disability per se, but also concluded that may be some exceptions: individuals who claim they're disabled because of their girls will be allowed to argue before a panel that they've been denied normal access to transportation. The agency's ruling was prompted by a complaint from Calgary lawyer Linda McKay Pines, who says she was humiliated and required to pay extra to fly to Canada because of her weight. The airline charges customers 50 per

cent of a regular fare if they need a second seat. The airline argued that providing such seats free to those considered obese could cost the already fragile industry \$25 million a year.

The comeback kid?

Stewart Day's tumultuous eight years as the official Opposition leader as he stepped down as head of the Canadian Alliance and moved out of Stormont Just hours after Day's resignation to resign. Calgary MP Diane Ablonczy said she will seek the leadership, joining Stephen Harper, former head of the arch-conservative National Citizens' Coalition, in vying for the post. Day who is expected to announce his plans to run in January is widely considered the

front-runner even though he was forced into calling the leadership election when 13 of 60 Alliance MPs defected from the party in August. John Reynolds is serving as interim leader until the election is held on March 8.

Milosevic ever defiant

Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic refused to enter a plea on charges of genocide and launched into a verbal tirade on the legacy of the war comes to trial in The Hague. On Milosevic's behalf, the UN accused entered a plea of not guilty on 20 charges of genocide, murder and torture during the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia, including the expulsion of more than 250,000 people, and the massacre of more than 7,000 Muslims at Srebrenica. "I should be credited with peace in Bosnia, not for war," declared Milosevic, who called the charges a "toprime absurdity." The firm of Siskovic, strongman, faces three separate indictments for crimes in Kosovo, Bosnia and Croatia dating from his 13 years as Yugoslavia's leader. The tribunal accused Milosevic of an alleged war crimes in Kosovo to begin on Feb. 12.

New cancer drugs

Results of two new studies presented at a breast cancer conference in San Antonio, Tex., suggest a new class of drug may be more effective than tamoxifen in fighting breast cancer in postmenopausal women. Women who had early-stage breast cancer and took the drug anastrozole had a 16 per cent reduction in the recurrence of the disease compared with women who took tamoxifen. Results of the second study showed a drug called letrozole may improve survival rates for women with late-stage breast cancer. While tamoxifen blocks estrogen entry into cancer cells, anastrozole and letrozole, which belong to a class of drugs known as aromatase inhibitors, stop the production of a estrogen.

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E. coli takes a toll in New Brunswick

Just hours after family and friends buried Jeffrey Bates, a 23-year-old Saint John toddler who died from an E. coli infection, public health officials in New Brunswick confirmed six other cases of the deadly bacteria in the province. One of those involved a 22-month-old Moncton girl who was taken to hospital in Moncton, where she was receiving kidney dialysis. She had been in a private baby-sitting facility, which public-health officials closed. Five other children, including the day-care owner's son, will be tested for E. coli. The other confirmed cases involve toddlers who attended a TV-MEGA day care in Saint John, and the mother of one of the sick children. Health officials said they didn't know whether there was any link between the Moncton and Saint John cases. They added that they didn't think the Saint John day care was the source of the E. coli infection, but that the facility may have been taken into the facility by one of the sick children.

Drunk with advice

Saying he "won't drink" just in "good spirits," Alberta Premier Ralph Klein apologized to a home-lesbians shelter after arguing with students during a midnight visit. Klein said he was "fenced home" on Dec. 12 after a night out with friends and



The good-spirited premier

attended the dinner of his government house. Back then to stop at the Kierb Jamieson Centre in Edmonton's inner city. Klein said he entered and began discussing the problem of homelessness with a group of men. But Mark Stelm, 26, who had just finished the last shift at a gas station and wanted a warm bed for the night, tells a different story. "I thought, 'What's Ralph Klein doing here?'" said Stelm. "You said and heard, there he was in the middle of his seven-hour shift, getting at them at the top of his lungs." Klein's speech, according to Stelm, was started and he was shouting at the men to get jobs. A worker at the

center also said the shelter men-ber's daily inside report and an entry says Klein was shouting and yelling at the men.

Last picture shows

Three landmark Toronto movie theatres, the Eglinton, Uptown and Blackstage, will close their doors for good by September, 2003. Rather than comply with an Ontario Heritage Rights Commission order to make the theatres wheelchair accessible, Famous Players Inc. decided to demolish the buildings that were only a matter of time anyway. Famous Players spent eight years fighting the case launched by disabled-rights activist Barbara Turnbull.

Under investigation

The federal ethics commissioner will study whether international Co-operation Minister Maria Minna acted in good faith when she voted outside her word in a Toronto by-election. Minna said she voted there because her constituency office makes her a target in the ward. However, the Municipal Elections Act of Ontario states residents can vote only in the municipal constituency they live in. Violating the act carries a fine of up to \$5,000. Opposition MPs called for her resignation.

Passages

Announced: Canadian Jim Carrey will seek U.S. citizenship. Carrey, 38, grew up in Toronto but says it was the U.S. that gave him a chance at success. "This country defined me," said the Dumb & Dumber star, who would like to hold dual citizenship.



Work: Speedskater Catherine Le May-Dan, 38, broke her own 500 m world record at a World Cup race in Calgary, winning her fourth gold medal in the event this season. Saskatchewan-born Le May-Dan is the odds-on favourite for the Olympic gold in February.

Overturned: Dr. Allan Rock, the former head of the Canadian Medical Association, has been cleared of unprofessional conduct. In 1996, the Medical Council of Canada found that the physician's physician failed to meet certain standards of care in the case of a 16-year-old who died of undiagnosed leukemia. Last week, the Federal Court of Appeal overturned the previous decision. Rock's term ended in October.

Appointed: Peter Vear, a senior executive with ConWest Global Communications, has been made publisher of the National Post. Vear replaces veteran newspaperman Gordon Fisher who, in turn, becomes president of news and information for CanWest.

Goals: Fisher who, in turn, becomes president of news and information for CanWest. The Post has recently suffered layoffs and the sale of Saturday Night magazine. Last week, Multi-Vision Publishing Inc., who bought Saturday Night, named Matthew Church, 42, of enRoute and Business Life, the magazine's new editor-in-chief.

Disallowed: Michael Goughland, 56, founder and former chief executive of ComCorp, will not lose one of the four Ontario Securities Commission charges laid against him in 1999. An Ontario court ordered the charge of tipping—passing on insider information—dropped.

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Big changes loom in Ontario power

It's what will be the largest privatization in Canadian history. Ontario will sell Hydro One—formed in 1999 when Ontario Hydro was broken into five parts in anticipation of deregulation. The sale of the Crown corporation, which owns the province's electricity transmission system, is expected to raise about \$5 billion which will be put towards paying down \$21 billion in so-called "municipal" debt—public debt left over from the old Ontario Hydro. At the same time, Ontario's Conservative government announced that the long-delayed move to deregulate the province's \$10-billion electricity

market will start as early as May. But critics warn the plan could be a disaster for consumers, pointing to California and Alberta as examples of what deregulation can bring. In those jurisdictions, rates skyrocketed, at least tripling.

The Hydro One announcement is a grand finale for Harris, who said in October he was stepping down as premier. After leading the Tories with their Conservative-Social Revolution to power in 1995, he presided over one of the most turbulent periods in Ontario



An era coming to a close

political history. But last week when the fall session ended, Harris was in the legislature for the last time as premier. The Tory leadership convention is just for Harris 23, before the legislature is scheduled to reconvene.



Members of Hamas celebrate with fake explosives strapped to their bodies, while medics help the victims of an attack on an Israeli bus (below)

Intensifying the pressure on Arafat

Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat stood before the UN General Assembly in 1974 and said, "I have come bearing an olive branch and a freedom fighter's gun. Do not let the olive branch fall from my hand." More recent Palestinian attacks that killed another 10 people last week, the Israeli cabinet, closely believing that Arafat was incapable of putting aside the gun, cut off all funds to the Palestinian leader. Arafat is "directly responsible" for the attacks, said a bluntly worded cabinet statement. "And therefore is no longer relevant to Israel, and Israel will no longer have any connection with him." The Israeli decision, according to an Arafat spokesman, amounted to

a "declaration of war." And it seemed as if one was indeed under way when Israel, continuing the lead line it had adopted on Dec. 3, launched air strikes on Arafat's West Bank headquarters and evacuated it with tanks, making him a virtual prisoner. Seven Palestinian policemen were also killed by Israeli troops in the offensive against Arafat, who has been under intense U.S. pressure to stop the terrorist attacks. "The Israeli assault came after pressure from a militia closely linked to the British organization killed 30 Israelis and injured 30 in a bus ambush. The powerful vehicle was destroyed by two bombs and its fleeing passengers killed by machine-



gun fire on a winding road near a Jewish settlement on the West Bank, 40 km north of Jerusalem. At virtually the same moment on the Green Strip, two suicide bombers threw themselves at a car and blew themselves up, injuring three people.

The dramatic Israeli response, however, could smother U.S. efforts to negotiate a truce between the two sides. Since the arrival of U.S. envoy Anthony Zinni on Nov. 26, 44 Israelis and 54 Arabs have been killed, including 19 armed Palestinians and 10 suicide bombers. In response to the continuing violence, Arafat promised to close all offices belonging to the terrorist groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad. But when Israel continued its attacks, the Palestinians backed away from that pledge. "It's impossible for the Palestinian leadership to implement its commitment under the shadow of this comprehensive war," said Palestinian Information Minister Nasser Abud Nader. And the death toll will continue to rise.

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FRANCES WRIGHT

Hours after the call went out for nominations to the 10th annual Macleau's Honour Roll, the e-mails began to trickle in. Within days, the response approached a flood. No wonder: There is no shortage of worthy Canadians, people "who made a difference," courageous men and women inherently qualified to become Honour Roll members.

One of the most touching nominations came from 85 immigrants newly arrived from all over the globe. What they had in common was **Conce Whiston**, "the dedicated English teacher helping in our first staggering steps of learning."

Another whose contribution is notable, but not widely known is **Robyn Bridgeo**, one of the first on the scene after the World Trade Center attack. A Salvation Army officer in training, Bridgeo represents the thousands of Canadians who provided succor in the wake of one of history's most horrific disasters.

The achievements of other Honour Roll members are well known in their fields, but usually not to the general public. Take **Frances Wright**,

who has worked tirelessly to enhance recognition of the **Fatherless 5**, women who waged a landmark legal battle that saw Canadian women courts tobacco recognized for the first time as "persons." Or **Sajeev John**, a theoretical physicist who is setting the framework for a scientific revolution. Or **Henry Friesen**, whose medical discoveries have already helped thousands of people around the world. And the dynamic couple, **Janet Cardiff** and **George Bures Miller**, whose unique creations are the heart of the international artistic community.

More widely known for their accomplishments are the likes of actor **Christopher Plummer** and pop singer **Nelly Furtado**. NBA star **Steve Nash** is never too busy to make a commitment to his "home and native land," nor is pianist **Louis Lortie**, more in demand outside Canada than in. For rare courage it is hard to beat writer **Carol Shields**, heroically battling cancer, or **Lincoln Alexander**, nearly 80, but not too old to continue his fight against one of the world's great scourges—terrorism.

MICHAEL KENNEDY



'These creative things come together for me when they are supposed to'

NELLY FURTADO

As the sun sets in the cool Nevada desert, Nelly Furtado lies the lookout for mosquitoes, cats and other hazards, but all she finds is some later resembling a skull and crossbones. The 29-year-old singer is enjoying the downtime, only a few kilometers from Las Vegas—where she is spending two days promoting her debut CD, *Whoa, Nelly!* The rest is on road, schmoozing DJs at a radio convention, hanging out with other celebrities and wearing a US Media Music Award for Best Of the Night, the most requested song of the year.

In the tranquility of the desert or under the bright lights of the Las Vegas Strip, Furtado is equally at ease. She's part B.C. hippie and part starbuck. And she seems exceptionally well adjusted, considering her resume: she isn't merely a talented Victoria's Secret model who dived into the Robyn Hood Motel to four-time Juno Award winner and international recording star Furtado's next challenge is to prove her overnight success is no fluke with a follow-up album, which she'll record in the spring. "The songs are really coming together," says Furtado. "I know they will. It's pretty much all I believe in—that these creative things come together for me when they are supposed to."

Although you can't shake her confidence—Furtado has known since she was 4 that she would be a famous musician—she is the first to admit she's still learning. "I wasn't born as a performer like all those other kids," she says, referring to her pop counterparts who got their start in the 1990s version of the Mickey Mouse Club. "I was raised more to be a writer, to reflect, write, make really hard behind the scenes."

And child, Furtado took to the stage each year at a neighborhood Portuguese festival, but it was the prep work she remembers best. Her mother, who was born in Portugal, "would give me a bunch of folk tapes and tell me to pick a song. When I found one I liked, I would transpose it to my voice and just start practicing." By age 12, Furtado was writing her own songs. At 17, she joined her elder sister in Toronto and performed at local hip-hop talent nights. Although approached about a recording deal, Furtado didn't feel ready. "I couldn't play guitar. I couldn't write a whole song," she recalls. "I could have made an all-right album, but I couldn't have made a world-class pop album." So Furtado returned to Victoria for creative writing at Camosun College, where she was honing her skills. In 1999, three years later, came back to Toronto to make *Whoa, Nelly!*

Now after a year of dreams coming true—from "meeting cute boys and getting free clothes" to guest appearances at the John Lennon tribute, the Aerosmith Franklin D. Roosevelt and Michael Jackson's 30th anniversary concert, to working the Lollapalooza tour—"my songs help people through tough times"—Furtado is starting to reflect on what propelled her to stardom and what will keep her grounded. "My parents raised me well," she says. "They taught me two things: to love people right and not work hard. I just apply myself the same way I did when I was in the high-school marching band or in college studying for an exam or when I was clearing it at the Robyn Hood Motel. And that's how Furtado will conquer the music world, one note at a time."

BY SHARON SZELB • PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER BREGG

LOUIS LORTIE

Is standing solo only in Salle F 3090 at the Université du Québec à Montréal. That's not surprising: the quiet instructor for the two-hour class is Louis Lortie, world-renowned concert pianist and local boy made good. Lortie has just completed a home-town engagement, as the feature introduction of a fall Beethoven festival, where he performed all 32 of the master's sonatas to packed houses. He is clearly ready for his long-planned Austrian holiday. But before heading for the airport, Lortie has agreed to teach this master class. "I have a responsibility to do these things," he explains afterwards. "I'd love to do more, but I just don't have the time."

Time is a commodity in short supply for a pianist as in demand as the 40-year-old Lortie. Hailed by *Gramophone* as "one of perhaps half a dozen pianists who it is worth dropping everything to go and hear," Lortie spends about six months of every year on the road. His travels divide his time evenly between North America, where he has a cottage in the Laurentians in Québec, and Europe, where he maintains homes in Paris and Berlin. "It's intense, this going from city to city," says Lortie, who has two small children and recently explained from his wife, "I don't even know how many concerts I play. Sometimes I look at my schedule and say, 'He, this is enough.'" But he still accepts it as a necessary evil of his chosen calling.

Or did the music choose him? Unlike many of his colleagues, who were pushed into the field by their parents, Lortie's father and mother had no musical talent. When he was 7, the family bought a house that contained a piano. "I saw my parents trying to play," he laughs. "Even then

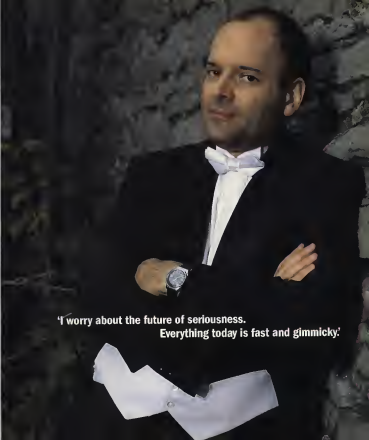
I could tell it was pathetic." But his grandmother could tickle the notes, and the contrast between good and bad playing fascinated him. He took to piano as intuitively as if it was part of his DNA coding. Lortie's first efforts delighted his grandmother, that she, while unimpressed with a music teacher in women, he says, was instrumental in his success. By 15, Lortie made his first public performance with the Montreal Symphony and, at 19, he toured with the Toronto Symphony in its historic 1978 trip to the People's Republic of China. After studying in Vienna, and at the school of music at McGill University, he was groomed at the prestigious Juilliard and Tanglewood competitions. In his mid-20s, establishing an international reputation.

Lortie is currently recording a 50-CD set of Beethoven's sonatas to add to his catalogue of more than 25 recordings, including Bartók's complete works for piano, and the complete Chopin Etudes, cited as one of "50 recordings by superlative pianists" by *BBC Music Magazine*. He finds such weighty projects both challenging and rewarding and an important ability. "I worry about the future of seriousness," he says. "Everything today is fast and gimmicky. Even in my field, people want novelty. They want you to do several composers in one concert. It's absolutely against the grain of what I'm trying to do, which is going deeply into something."

That's another reason Lortie so enjoys the few concerts he can spare his knowledge to the next generation of pianists. It's a hedge against the dissolution of the music he was born to play.

BY JULIAN BELTRAME • PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER ARNO

**"I worry about the future of seriousness.
Everything today is fast and gimmicky."**





**'I felt bolder
because this
is my last
novel,
probably'**

CAROL SHIELDS

On a recent day in November, the elegant lunch-hour crowd is out in full force at Toronto's Four Seasons Hotel, basking in the pleasure of seeing and being seen. But what few seem to notice in the morning bustle is a diamond-encrusted earring at a corner table. Carol Shields, on the other hand, wishes nothing. Blinked by the sun, the Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist is answering each detail, from the coat check to the cocktail in the air, and the memory of the night before. Pale and tired, she is nonetheless glowing as she describes the Silver Place girls. "Cancer makes you more hungry for life than you've ever been," confesses Shields, who was diagnosed with the disease three years ago. "Of course, writers love the company of other writers." Just, she has one regret: forgetting to take note of what others wore, as she had promised a friend. "When it comes to jewelry and clothes," she says. "I'm afraid I'm not very observant."

Grabshaw? Kindly here is a memoir with an extraordinary gift for capturing both the surface of things and more important, underneath, lies beneath a woman's shimmering mediocrity whose poems of observation have won her a devoted inner national following and a slew of literature's most coveted prizes, including the Pulitzer, the Governor General's Literary Award, the Ontario Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award. Whether living in the air of a fictional woman's life through the past century in *The Stone Quaker*, or a 20-year span in a man's life in Larry's Party, Shields is both selfless and generous in her understanding of human experience. And this year, at 66, she has ridden high on the best-seller

list once again with both her biography of Jane Austen and *Disappearing Friends: What We Aren't Told*, an anthology of women's essays infused with her best Maggie Fierstone.

Born in Oak Park, a suburb of Chicago, Shields remembers learning to read as "one of the few spiritual experiences" in her many-childed life. Her early years followed a modest and strict, middle-class life at 22 to Don Shields, a Canadian engineering grad student when she met him; she was studying at Queen's University in Kingston, a school she calls "my great good luck." There was the busy work of mothering a son and four daughters, and a series of moves: Mississauga, Toronto, Ottawa, Winnipeg. But early on she began stealing moments to write, partly their fiction, publishing her first novel at 40. Over the years, as a single mother, voice emerged. "People say, 'Oh, women have come so far!'" says Shields. "But no, they haven't. Women are casually discarded." I ask it every day: The question is, how do you accommodate feminist rage if you love men and have made your love?

Last week, Shields was home in Victoria, pulling the finishing touches on her 10th novel. Unless, a book she calls her "great companion" and her most evenly balanced to date. "I felt bolder because this is my last novel, probably," says Shields. "I never get into this winter spirit of fighting winter. I view them the fighting that this was bad news. If I were 48 instead of 66, I would feel unsettled. But I've seen my children grow up. I've had a wonderful middle age. I've done everything that I wanted to do, and I'm grateful."

BY ANN DONAGHY ARNOLD • PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTOPHER WOODS

STEVE NASH

'I am
very
skeptical
about
fame'

At 27, middle-aged by the unyielding grind of professional basketball, Steve Nash says he has found few solaces in his life, "a peaceful retreat" (he wouldn't know it watching him play). A rugged six-foot-seven, though a mami rate by pro standards, Nash has always had a mami quality to his game. Catch him at his day job as point guard for the Dallas Mavericks—at \$6.6 million, the highest-paid Canadian in the NBA—or in the off season as the undisputed team leader of Canada's national basketball team. Every trip up the court has something to prove. The jewel-cracked hockey heel, so retro in the spite-conscious NBA, only reinforces the point. But after six years in the league, Nash says he is finally starting to feel "at home—I'm working at the office." He is even getting around to finishing his Dallas townhouse.

Raised in Victoria, Nash played every game going. Sports were clearly in his genes. His brother, John, was a professional soccer player, so now is his younger brother Martin. You can see that heritage in the tenacity with which he prowls the court, or the effortless way he can dribble a ball with either hand (he's left foot, what he is foaling around in the gym). But more than technique came the passion to leave. "Early on," he says, "I was inspired by seeing other people's stories. Of how they worked hard, how they overcame obstacles." Now, it's time to make his own story.

By his own account, Nash is going through an intrapersonal period: looking for that new ingredient at the sport-M world of the NBA—a little devil-like peace. He thinks he's

found it being a stay-at-home pro, reading books at night—reads the *Monkeys* of a devotee and political theories like Noam Chomsky. No guitar-teaching himself guitar, wasting his body and just hanging out with teammates. "I can't play for ever. I might not want to," says Nash. "That's why I'm trying to conserve energy and sacrificing on my social life. I'm trying to stay low-key and be really focused."

Some might snicker. Over the past year, Nash reportedly dated former Spice Girl Geri Halliwell, also Elizabeth Hurley. He's embarrassed at the publicity. "They were very minor incidents," Nash says, the results of chance introductions. But if basketball has enriched him financially, fortune and opportunity, it has also brought responsibility. Making the Canadian team is the 2000 Olympics thrust him into the main man leader's spotlight. "The first I saw him make his first big mistake" was the Steve Nash Youth Basketball program in B.C.

Both leadership and charity are affecting his equilibrium. "I am very skeptical about fame," says Nash, in that direct, intense way he has even off the court. "Charity is something I really believe in, but I think it should be mostly anonymous, otherwise who is giving?" At the same time, Nash recognizes his name can open doors. "And I want to be a leader to some extent. So you can see where the conflict comes in." It's the kind of existential balancing act all public figures endure, maybe even all young people who are thrust early into the public eye. "You are expected to carry the ball but you also have to give it over—at exactly the right moment."

BY ROBERT SHEPPARD • PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER ORSICO



FRANCES WRIGHT

'The power in women is palpable, if only we have the confidence to unleash it'

On a sun-drenched morning in downtown Calgary, Frances Wright gently nudges the larger-than-life lapel status of the women as if they were beloved family members. These statues, along with an almost identical set erected on Parliament Hill, commemorate the so-called Famous 5—early feminists from Alberta who waged a landmark legal battle that in 1929 saw Canadian women constitutionally recognized for the first time as “persons.” It was important to put faces to these heroes,” says Wright, 54, who helped spearhead the national campaign to celebrate the Famous 5. “When you look at them, they are just such little old ladies. But these women changed the world.”

They were to be sure, a remarkable group. Emily Murphy, the first female magistrate in the British Empire; Nellie McClung, novelist, journalist, and early suffragette leader; Louise McKinney, the first female elected official in the British Empire; Irene Parlby, Alberta’s first female cabinet minister; Henrietta Muir Edwards, a co-founder of the National Council of Women and the Victorian Order of Nurses. Outspoken all, they left behind a wealth of epigrams that Wright, no shrinking violet herself, loves to repeat. Her favourite comes from McClung: “He sassen ages higher than its women.”

Born in South Africa, Wright came to Canada in 1952 with her family when she was 5, following the imposition of apartheid. After graduating from the University of Calgary with a B.A. in psychology, Wright worked briefly as a stockbroker. During the 1980s, she owned an Ports International clothing store with her husband, Richard Podreus, a marketing

consultant and University of Calgary lecturer (the couple have no children). Wright sold the stores in 1999 and started a consulting company but for the past five years she has worked full time as president and chief executive officer of the non-profit Famous 5 Foundation, which boasts 1,000 volunteers.

That foundation began when Wright and a few female friends discussed ways to mark the 70th anniversary of the “person case” on Oct. 18, 1999. They soon settled on the idea of unveiling the statues on that date at Calgary’s Olympic Plaza and exactly a year later on Parliament Hill—the first monument to women other than croneheads, ever erected on that site. Then Wright convinced the prominent Canadian women to donate \$200,000 each to underwrite the costs.

Erecting the statues was just a start, the foundation is currently putting the finishing touches on a school curricula package on the Famous 5 in hopes all provinces will adopt it. It is also lobbying for legislation that would change the lyrics in O Canada from “In all our sons command” to “In all of us command.” Wright says the virgatus for 50th campaign came from fathers of daughters who expressed discomfort after singing the national anthem “til along,” she says, “we’ve had the support of great bearded men.”

By pushing reforms, Wright feels she is following, in a small way, the example of the Famous 5. “It’s about seeing women as achievers, not as victims, and not as helpings,” she says. “The power in women is palpable, if only we have the confidence to unleash it.”

BY BLAIR BERGMAN • PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK MORROW





ROBYN BRIDGEO

'The destruction was so horrific, I prayed that I would remain focused and not become overcome with sorrow'

The emergency call came only minutes after the tsunami struck on Sept. 11. At the Salvation Army School for Officer Training in Suffern, N.Y.—an hour's drive north of the World Trade Center—students gathered in the chapel just after 9 a.m. to hear their principal appeal for volunteers. Robyn Bridgeo didn't hesitate. "I knew in my heart I had to go," says the 29-year-old native of San Jose, N.D. "I had to do what I could." That night, the father of two daughters, Kelsey 7, and Hannah 3, began the first of three grueling 12-hour shifts at Ground Zero.

A willingness to serve comes naturally to Bridgeo. "I have known since I was a little boy that I was going to be a minister," says the future Salvation Army officer, whose father and grandfather were Wesleyan clergymen. As a teen, Bridgeo balked at the role of "the minister's kid" but, after high school, the long-haired rebel decided to dedicate himself to God and enrolled at Bethany Bible College in Sussex. A summer job as a counselor at a camp for underprivileged children in Maine proved to be a turning point for the young man who loves preaching—and people. "In the Salvation Army I saw a church with their sleeves rolled up," says Bridgeo. "I'll be honest with what they did, how they ministered, not just by word but in deed."

He was also mentored by Stephen, an American co-worker and daughter of Salvation Army officers. In September, the couple, who married in 2003 and spent several years working with troubled youngsters, entered the Salvation Army's two-year training program. Once they are ordained, Bridgeo hopes to be assigned as a youth pastor. But, he

says, "I am going to go—not where I want—but where I am needed."

The human need and suffering Bridgeo encountered at Ground Zero went beyond all imagining. "The destruction was so horrific my eyes could not take it all in," he recalls while visiting the site a few weeks later. "I prayed that I would remain focused on what needed to be done and not become overcome with sorrow." In the early, chaotic hours after the tragedy, he found himself running back and forth across the smoky rubble, next to piles of twisted metal and scavenging cartons of water, food and other supplies to the large area the command center and, at times, to the firemen on the front lines. "We found they needed clean, dry socks," says Bridgeo. "So we went to get socks."

Bridgeo will also never forget the glances of hell that was Ground Zero—the horrible smell of death, the creaking sounds of bending metal as he walked through miles-deep water in a makeshift morgue, and the sight of bodies piled on a truck. Nor will he forget the selfishness of weary firemen who turned down food and water, unwilling to be a minute away from the bottle. "There is nothing heroic about what I did," says Bridgeo. "I was in there serving sandwiches."

Still, he believes his contribution was "one of the most fulfilling things I've ever done." And, he adds, one of the most Canadian, too. Says Bridgeo, "That's how I was raised. If you see someone who needs something, you help them."

BY MAISON DOYLE BRIDGEO • PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER BRIDGEO

CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER

'You have to terrify an audience as well as entertain them'

On the Calgary set of *Atonement*, Christopher Plummer is a study in contrasts. In the film, living on CTV in the spring of 2002, Plummer plays John McKenna, a former Canadian ambassador to the Soviet Union who died under mysterious circumstances in 1964 while being interrogated by the KGB as a suspected spy. It's an intense role, and the 72-year-old Plummer is in almost every scene. When out in front of the camera, he alternates between tough tussles with the film's director and writer and playful banter. Plummer talks about a recent visit to Banff—his first time in the Canadian Rockies—and his plans to return there. He also jokes with a visitor about the tedium of movie-making. "Pretty tiring stuff, huh?" says Plummer as he emerges from the last of several takes of one 33-second scene. "The glimmer is overwhelming."

The very intentional 13th season of more than 60 feature films and countless theatrical productions clearly thrives in the limelight. In the past two years alone, the Toronto-born Montrealer Plummer has appeared in seven TV productions as well as eight feature films, including a widely acclaimed turn as CBS' re-examiner Mike Wallace in 1999's *The Insider*. He has also nurtured his first passion, the theatre. Following up on the triumphant one-man Broadway show *Boy*, for which he won his second Tony Award as best actor in 1997, Plummer returns next summer to one of his old stomping grounds, Ontario's Stratford Festival, in the four-decade role of King Lear.

So why is he working at such a furious pace when he could be relaxing at his sprawling estate in rural Connecticut with actor Elaine Taylor, his wife of 31 years? "In our

profession there is no retirement," responds Plummer. "It's a work of love, it really is. Otherwise, get the hell out."

Plummer, who grew up as an only child in a privileged Anglo enclave of Montreal (his great-grandfather John Abbott served as the city's mayor and, for 17 months, as Canada's fourth prime minister), has been breeding the beasts since his teenage years. Following stints at repertory companies in Montreal and Ottawa, he left Canada in 1953, winning acclaim both on Broadway and with the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre in London. Movie offers rolled in, including what remains (much to his chagrin) Plummer's best-known role as Captain von Trapp in 1960's *The Sound of Music*.

Along the way Plummer married and divorced twice, had one child (actor Alexander Plummer) and, by his own account, indulged in the high life. "I never took drugs, thank God," he laughs. "I'm too busy getting drunk." He also earned a reputation for a quick temper and a virgineous Plummer was, he believes, overcompensating for an essential shyness rooted in his childhood. "You seek out a life where you can be someone else," he says. "You obviously can't cope with being yourself."

Plummer, who remains a passionate Canadian despite a half-century living in the United States and England, says he has mellowed—but not too much. "I haven't lost the temper that is important to playing the great roles," he says. "You have to terrify an audience as well as entertain them." In that regard, he's looking toward *King Lear*. "Use theatre as a life business," says Plummer. "I love taking that risk."

BY BRIAN KUSHMAN • PHOTOGRAPHY BY TODD HOWE



GEORGE BURES MILLER AND JANET CARDIFF



'We've always been close artistically.

Part of our dating process was collaborating in a film.'

The New York City art crowd is hard to impress. But in this vast high-ceilinged gallery overlooking the Manhattan skyline, visitors' fingers are visibly enthralled by Janet Cardiff's *Parti Partis*—an award-winning sound installation that transforms an abstract Duchampian composition into a magnificent virtual choir. The buzz gathering around Cardiff, 44, a rising international artist who grew up on a southwestern Ontario farm, is now electric—loud enough to make a major exhibit at the P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center (an affiliate of the Museum of Modern Art) and strong enough to attract top-level museum directors, art dealers and collectors. "It's going very well," says a smiling Cardiff, standing out from her mostly black-clad admirers in a sparkly white blouse. Yael Pajani, curator from Ottawa where he heads the foreign affairs and promotion division, turns up the volume on the upstart reaction to Cardiff's work. "What is on everybody's mind in art, connected with high tech."

Cardiff's preferred medium is sound. She uses it as brilliantly as the old masters used paint, but instead of canvas, she conjures her original, vivid visions of space and audio recordings (tapping watches, music, sirens and other ambient sounds) into a ramshackle, tour-leading vision in, around and sometimes outside the museum. Listen, Cardiff's voice is compelling. Her art, as accessible as a Wilkins "Oy to follow the sound of my footsteps," she undertakes through the headphones. In one of her signature audio-walk-ground-breaking works that launched her career, *Don't fill behind*.

It's hard to keep up with Cardiff's stunning achievements. In March—after a decade of acclaimed shows at the art world's most elite venues—Forty Part Motel was the National Gallery of Canada Foundation's inaugural \$20,000 Millennium Prize, open to artists around the world. Then in June, Cardiff and George Bures Miller, her Vancouver, B.C.-born husband, became the first Canadian to take home a prize at the Venice Biennale, often

called the "Olympics of the art world." They won for their collaborative work *The Paradise Institute*, which simulates the interlocking experience. Notes Pajani: "When you get invited to Venice—and win—it is hard to go much further. But Janet and George are part of the international landscape; we will see their influence increase."

Cardiff's name may come up more often these days than Bures Miller's—*Vogue*, *The New York Times* and *Art*, and almost every major art magazine have profiled Janet in recent months—but the couple's aesthetic sensibilities and achievements are intimately entwined. Cardiff, who completed an undergraduate degree in fine arts at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., met her husband, then a painting student, at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, where she did post-graduate work in printmaking. The couple married in 1984 and moved to Toronto, where Bures Miller studied at the Ontario College of Art. A few years later Cardiff accepted a teaching position at the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, where they worked a relaxed, obscure—scholarship in life and art.

Although their solo works are quite different—Bures Miller, 41, perfects kinetic sculpture and video, and is the acknowledged expert on technology—the couple constantly share ideas. "We've always been close artistically," says Bures Miller. "Part of our dating process was collaborating on a film."

This fall at the end of a yearlong fellowship from the German government, the couple decided to settle in Berlin, although Cardiff maintains her link with the University of Lethbridge. Increasingly, their focus has shifted to the long list of invitations to create new works for elite galleries in Europe, Japan and North America. "It's a lifestyle I used to imagine and now we're living it," says Cardiff. Still, she stays rooted in the art. "We are pushing ourselves," she adds. "making work that stresses us and pushing the boundaries."

BY SARAH COVAT BERNARD • PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER JOHNS

HENRY FRIESEN

'To actually see it happen is hugely gratifying'

About an hour's drive southwest of Winnipeg, the town of Morden juts out of the sprawling prairie flats. Henry Friesen grew up here, the first of four boys. His father, who emigrated from Ukraine, ran an oil, gas and lumber business—occasionally paying Henry to skip class to pump gas or help with the books. “I enjoyed the responsibility,” recalls Friesen, 67, who visits his 89-year-old dad regularly.

On Saturday nights, before they head hunting water, Friesen remembers his hardworking mother “a wonderful woman” mulling steaks off their woodstove to ready a bath for the boys. In another room, his father, a lay member to the region's staunch Lutheran community, prepared sermons. “He had firm views, but he wasn't harsh,” says Friesen. “He was understanding of human nature.”

The same could be said of his son. Friesen graduated from medical school at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. But instead of becoming a practitioner, he pursued research, unraveling the secrets of human hormones, first at the New England Medical Center in Boston, then later at Montreal's McGill University and, again, at the University of Manitoba.

Friesen's work has had a profound impact—20 years of studies led to growth hormone replacement therapy for unusually short children. But his crowning achievements have been to discover polycystic ovary syndrome, which, it seems, causes infertility, and to help develop a drug to control the hormone, allowing women to have children. For his protein work, the prestigious Gairdner Foundation in Toronto be-

stowed him with one of its awards—one in five Gairdner recipients has gone on to win a Nobel Prize.

Friesen's dark hair and cheekbones suggest the dished, mild-mannered scientist. But he is a serious and formidable administrator, a quiet man with a reputation for getting things done. In 1991, he took over as head of the Medical Research Council, the country's lead agency for funding health studies. At the time, the MRC focused on just basic and clinical research, but Friesen broadened its scope to fund studies on all aspects of health. Today he chairs Genome Canada, juggling between his Winnipeg home and Ottawa office to oversee the \$300-million he helped convince the federal government to line up for gene studies.

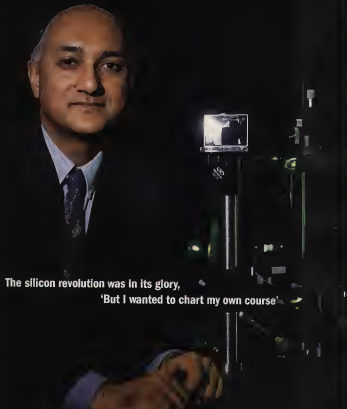
His life, says Friesen, has been blessed. While in Boston he met his Canadian-born wife, Joyce, a nurse specializing in pediatrics, and they have two grown children. His scientific and administrative prowess has earned him the Order of Canada, membership in the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame and this year's Gairdner Foundation Wightman Award for “extraordinary achievement as a creative scientist and distinguished leader.”

Looking back, Friesen says it was an unusual opportunity and privilege to not only discover proteins, but to see osteoporotic women become mothers. Scientists, Friesen says, don't always get to watch their discoveries help people. “It's often the preliminary work that cleans you,” he says, “but to actually see it happen is hugely gratifying.”

BY DAN HARRINGTON • PHOTOGRAPHY BY THOMAS FRICKE



SAJEEV JOHN



The silicon revolution was in its glory,
"But I wanted to chart my own course"

A modest man with a giant big idea, Sajeev John drives an old Porsche and seems genuinely surprised that a visitor might find his office at the University of Toronto—with its industrial-strength carpet and painted concrete walls—just a little sparse. Of course, John, 44, is a theoretical physicist, a numbers guy someone who lives in a different realm than most. And, if his colleagues are right, he is about to usher in an entirely new world order altogether: Call it the Age of Light, photonics to the scientifically inclined. For John has created both the intellectual framework and a tiny sliver of manufactured silicon to prove his point: It can actually catch light, that quickest, most elusive sliver of energy and power it along a microscopic path.

The potential is enormous: computers and telecommunications racing along at the fastest speed science knows. "There is nothing in nature that captures light fully," he says, almost wistfully the way he has done it—by improving on the light-absorbing structure of crystals and butterfly wings and by coining a far-flung team of international specialists to join the cause—is nearly as audacious as the idea itself.

John's creed is that discovery means "exposing your ignorance." And his secret is to be so unassuming that he can broker his ideas among a diverse group of chemists, materials engineers and general dabblers. The only child of a physics professor and a biochemist, John himself is a pretty smart cackler. As an undergrad, he topped his class at the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The silicon revolution was in its glory. "But I wanted to chart my own course," he says, to make light do what electrons do naturally follow a man-made path.

His career came early in a paper he wrote in 1984, when he was just 27, John set out his theory for confining light. More important, how to do it. All of a sudden, scientists does

crinkled open. Within a few years the University of Toronto called him home, dangled research money and allowed him the freedom to travel the world explaining his theories. In early 1999, he met a group of Spanish scientists who were making tiny little balls of glass, a fraction the width of a human hair. That offered him the model—imagine a miniature cortex of neurons barely touching each other.

And back home, at the UofT, John stumbled upon chemist Geoffrey Cox who was willing to try, literally to fill in the gaps. Cox, at first, thought it couldn't be done. But John is persistent, a copilot. In just one year, his informal 35-member international team had their triumph. Big corporations came calling, this summer, John won the \$325,000 King Faisal International Prize for science, an auspicious award from a desert kingdom that should know something about light and revolutions.

John is proud but not pleased by the attention—photonics chips are still some years away from mainstream product use. He is already turning his mind to light-reading medical tools—"kind of like Star Trek"—and he is almost as proud that young researchers from all over are flocking to him still. "I've probably made about a dozen new Canadian citizens," he cracks.

Meanwhile, he has a toddler at home and now an intellectual one making its way in the scientific world. The thought makes him nostalgic. What he was 4, his family emigrated from a small village in southern India. He still remembers the canopy of cypress trees that shaded the sky and the almost magical light that filtered through, bouncing and shimmering on light will do. "Light, like that, reminds you you're here," says John. Of course, if you squint your eyes and think hard you just might make it dart through hoops.

BY ROBERT SHEPPARD • PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER DRESC

CAROLE WHISTON

'It takes a lot of courage to throw yourself into another culture'

Carole Whiston has called a break for the first time this morning: her students at the Adult Continuing Education Centre in New Westminster, B.C., ignore her and continue working in groups in their newly acquired English. Their assignment, describe the scene from a window on a bleak fall day, a task they approach as if their lives depend upon it. Perhaps, in some small way they do.

There are about 30 people in the room, ranging in age from their 20s to their 40s. They come from everywhere: two Chinese and a Korean wife, "The trees had look of their splendour with only a few lonely leaves trembling in the chilly wind." Three Chinese and a Mexican add a sentence to their paragraph. "The evening was like a sad woman crying in silence." Octaves are consulted. Pencilled sheets of paper are rubbed raw, and rewritten.

Whiston glances at a visitor smiling as though to say, "See, I told you so." And she had. Earlier, she described her students this way: "A teacher's dream." The admission is mutual. Whiston teaches English and academic upgrading, she's part of a program from the local school district who work primarily with new Canadians. This spring, Whiston's received a love letter dedicated to the "devoted teaching team" at the center. It was written by a 33-year-old recent immigrant from Iran and was signed by 85 students. "Specially we owe a debt of endless gratitude to Mrs. Carole Whiston, the dedicated English teacher helping in our first struggling steps of learning."

Shown the letter, Whiston took a moment to collect her thoughts. They were typically about the students, a whirl

lwind Nations driven by a common will to succeed. "It's kind of a model," she said, "of how the world could operate."

Whiston, 57, a Saskatchewan farm farm girl with a voracious appetite for books and a third far love, began her teaching career in 1965 in a high school in Radisson, Sask. She met her husband, Barry, now a semi-retired engineer while teaching near Calgary, and the two settled in British Columbia. She abandoned her career to raise a son and daughter, returned to university to study linguistics and resumed teaching in 1990.

Her focus on language was a practical decision. She wanted to work, and immigration to B.C. with booming letters she found are the most motivated students she has taught. English isn't just a subject, it is their key to a new country. Many in their home lands, were health professionals or teachers, computer experts or scientists. Here, some juggle studies with menial wage jobs. "All they need is a way to express themselves," says Whiston. "There are some brilliant people in this room. It takes a lot of courage to throw your self into another culture."

Whiston is inspired by their energy, but warned that Canada is melting their hearts. "We're not such a brave guy with our immigrants," she said. "I would just smooth the path a little more to let them be productive."

Twice yearly there is a "dedication day" the emotional students who have earned certificates share with their teachers their plans and dreams. Often they cry. Often Whiston joins them.

BY KEN MACQUEEN • PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTOPHER MORTON



LINCOLN ALEXANDER

Lincoln Alexander, at 56-foot, three-inches of him, his size 14 feet, dressed in a pair of hand-knit orange and black slippers, shuffles through the school dining room of his Hamilton home. He captures it at the cluttered table where a new-convert vacuum cleaner takes up most of the surface, printed instructions discarded at its side. "I can't put the bloody thing together," he laughs. "But I'm almost 60. I'm lucky I am still walking."

Actually, it is a wonder that he ever stops. The former Ontario lieutenant-governor, calamity in retirement, still serves on nine-invisible boards and committees. On one, as chairman of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, Alexander catenues a lifelong battle to break down stereotypes and foster communication among different racial and ethnic groups, efforts that have guided him throughout his 35-year career in politics and law. And though suffering from the frailties of age and loneliness since Thelma, his beloved wife of 50 years, died in 1989, Alexander is as cheerful and upbeat as ever.

Alexander, honored earlier this month in Toronto at a gala to raise money for his scholarship fund at the University of Guelph, is a man of firsts. In 1968, he became the first black member of Parliament, elected for Hamilton West. In 1970, he became the first black cabinet minister appointed to the Labour post during Joe Clark's nine months as prime minister. He was Canada's first black lieutenant-governor and in 1995 became the first chairman of the anti-racism foundation. Now, after 11 years—and still counting—he is the first University of Guelph chancellor to serve four terms. All handouts that make Alexander feel both proud and burdened. "There are too many eyes looking at me," he explains. "It's not hard to be first, but if you

fail, then no other black person can do anything similar." Despite a bout with lung cancer, he forges ahead, paving the way for people who are "black, brown, yellow and red." He is currently on a city advisory committee trying to cope with post-Sept. 11 vandalism on a Hamilton mosque and a Hindu temple. "Racism in this country," he sighs, "is one hell of a mess." Alexander's proudest achievements are linked to this work in race relations—read in education. The bells and whistles of other offices are nice, he says, but it is speaking with students that makes his day. His mantra: "Life ain't fair. Stay in school. Get an education." However, his humor, never far from the surface, is clear as he adds impishly, "I don't know why the hell I am trying to be the best, do my best. Why should I? I'm 60 years of age and if you don't like me, screw you."

Resident in Toronto and New York City, Alexander refused to follow in his father's footsteps as a train porter, one of the few jobs available to a man of colour. After obtaining a law degree from Guelph, he moved to Toronto, he wanted to innovation in pursuit of the worse, a leecher who would later become his wife and the mother of their son. He set up a practice there with a white friend after established firms turned him away.

Reflecting on his career, surrounded by photographs of himself with famous faces and awards from organizations as diverse as the Rotary Club and a One Third Degree Group, Alexander pinpointed the one thing that keeps his spirit intact—helping the little guy. "Is there anything that our whittles this man who has three schools and a gateway named after him? The Oh so Except," he says, waving towards the vacuum cleaner, "that bloody thing over there."

BY AMY GARDNER • PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER ENOCCO

His mantra is, 'Life ain't fair. Stay in school. Get an education.'



UBL: They were overjoyed when the first plane hit the building, so I said to them: be patient.



UBL: The brothers, who conducted the operation, all they knew was that they have a martyrdom operation and we expect even if there is no go to



America but they didn't know anything about the operation, not even one letter. But they were trained and we did not reveal the



operation even the most difficult, not even one letter. But they were trained and we did not reveal the operations to them until they are from and just before they boarded

'ALL WE HOPED FOR'

Washington releases a videotape of Osama bin Laden gloating over Sept. 11

BY JONATHAN GATHHOUSE

The shaky, poorly-lit camera work had the familiar feel of a sec-room party video, but the chilling words and images offered an unparalleled portrait of malevolence. In the three months since the attacks on New York City and Washington, cynics and doubters around the world have demanded concrete proof that Osama bin Laden and his Al-Qaida network were behind the events of Sept. 11. Last week, the United States government provided what it says is the video equivalent of a

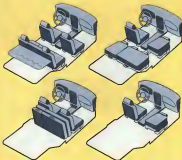
smoking gun—a tape in which the terrorist leader admits responsibility for the hijackings and crashes, describing their planning and execution with evident glee.

The hour-long video was discovered earlier this month by coalition forces at an abandoned Taliban guesthouse in Jalalabad. Dated-stamped Nov. 9, the tape shows a relaxed bin Laden, sitting cross-legged on a mattress, discussing the attacks with a group of supporters. The two sequences, totaling 37 minutes, are interspersed with footage of the wreck of an American military helicopter (the amateur

videographer apparently started recording bin Laden's comments in the middle of the tape and was forced to rewind to its beginning to capture the end of the meeting).

Speaking in a low rumbling voice, the terrorist tells how the death toll and destruction at the World Trade Center exceeded even his own "optimistic" predictions. He smiles and chuckles as he talks about the second jet hitting the south tower, mirroring the impact with his fist and an upturned palm. His audience, including a visiting Saudi cleric, offers its approval frequently, praising Allah. Bin

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Be Faking in Afghanistan confirmed, even in the World reacted to his Laden's words

Laden finishes the meeting by reciting a poem about a bloody battlefield.

Reaction to the video was low-key in Western capitals, with leaders like Prime Minister Jean Chrétien saying a solemn ritual and a confirmation of what they have known all along. In New York, the tape stirred up fears—and anger. But in the Middle East, where there is a deep-seated suspicion of anything Washington says, many doubted the tape to be conclusive. Some critics, noting that Hollywood has pledged its support in the war against terrorism, accused the U.S. of manufacturing evidence. "Of course it's fabricated," said Dias Rashwan, a Cairo academic who studies Islamic fundamentalist movements. "Armed has, then the blood of thousands who died and were injured in Afghanistan is on Bush's head."

Some often Laden's comments

"We calculated in advance the number of casualties from the enemy who would be killed based on the position of the tower. We calculated that the floors that would be hit would be three or four floors. I was the most optimistic of them all. I was thinking that the fire from the gas in the plane would make the iron structure of the building and collapse the area where the plane hit and all the floors above it only. This is all that we had hoped for."

"We were at [Jeddah] when the event took place. We had no car on the previous Thursday that the event would take place that day. We had finished our work that day and had the radio on. It



Osama bin Laden. A plane crashing into a tall building was out of anyone's imagination. This was a great job. He was one of the brave men in the

was 5:30 p.m. on time. Immediately we heard the news that a plane had hit the World Trade Center. After a little while, they announced that another plane had hit the World Trade Center. The brothers who heard the news were overjoyed by it."

"The brothers, who conducted the operation, all they knew was that they have a mysterious operation and we asked each of them to go to America but they didn't know anything about the operation, nor even one letter. But they were trained and we did not reveal the operation to them until they are there and just before they boarded the planes. Those who were trained to fly didn't know the others. One group of people did not know the other group."

"We were at a camp in Kandahar. This brother belonged to the majority of the group. He came close and told me that he was, in a dream, a tall building in America. At that point, I was worried that maybe the secret would be revealed if everyone starts seeing it in their dream. So I closed the subject. I told him if he sees another dream, not to tell anybody, because people will be upset with him."

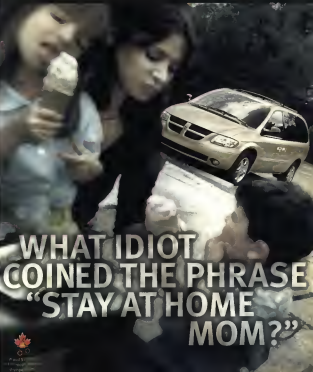
"They were overjoyed when the first plane hit the building, so I said to them: be patient. The difference between the first and the second plane hitting the towers was 20 minutes. And the difference between the first plane and the plane that hit the Pentagon was one hour."

"[Reciting a poem] I witness that against the sharp blade/They always faced difficulties and stood together/When the darkness comes upon us and we are hit by a sharp tooth, I say/Our homes are flooded with blood and the tyrant is finally wandering in our homes/And from the battlefield vanished/The brightness of swords and the horses/And over weeping sounds now/We hear the beats of drums and rhythms/They are screaming his fans/And shouting/We will not stop our ride/Until you see our lands."

"Those youth who conducted the operations said in deeds, in New York and Washington, speeches that overshadowed all other speeches made everywhere else in the world. The speeches are understood by both Arabs and non-Arabs—even by Chinese. It is about all what the media said. Some of them said that in Holland, or one of the corners, the number of people who accepted Islam during the days that followed the operations were more than the people who accepted Islam in the last 11 years. I heard someone on Islamic radio who owns a school in America say: 'We don't have time to keep up with the demands of those who are asking about Islamic books to learn about Islam. This event made people think [about true Islam] which benefited Islam greatly.'"

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UNCERTAIN TIMES

The economy was always Paul Martin's ally. Now it has become the enemy.

BY JOHN GEODES and
JULIAN BELTRAME in Ottawa

Certainty has been the hallmark of Paul Martin's remarkable run as finance minister. When Martin set a target for curbing the deficit, Canadians learned, year after year, that he was close to his mark—and then some. When he predicted the economy's performance, his assumptions were so accurate that any surprises were bound to be good ones. So when he tabled his 2001 budget last week with the slogan "restoring progress in an uncertain world" right there on the cover, the intuitive tone—more hopeful than truly confident—signalled that much has changed.

The economy had always been Martin's ally. In the prosperous years after Jean Chrétien's Liberals took power in 1993, costs poured in fast enough to ensure that, with reasonable restraint, spending could be matched to revenues. The trick was a *strong dollar*—the Canadian dollar's strength in 1998. But this fall, the wounded economy has turned into Martin's enemy. He is still aiming to keep the books balanced, but only if a United States recovery begins by the middle of 2002, as many forecasters predict, pulling Canada's export-based economy up along with it. "If, on the other hand, U.S. consumer and business confidence erodes further," Martin warned in his budget speech, "that would have economic and fiscal consequences for us all."

Hardly a ringing bit of rhetoric, but still the speech's key line. Everything now hinges on a U.S. upturn. And that inescapable reality made Martin's budget seem oddly before the point: After all, if the key to bringing Canada's slump to a quick end is a U.S. resurgence, how important could Ottawa's fiscal plan be? The answer: not very, if the budget is viewed mainly as a policy reaction to the recession. "This is not a *sometime* budget," said Bank of Montreal chief economist Tim O'Neill. "It's certainly not a *sometime* package like the one the U.S. is considering."



A budget with a timelier tone

Republicans and Democrats in Washington were in hard bargaining last week over a bill that would put due to \$100 billion (U.S.) in *American* welfare, mostly by raising unemployment and health benefits and curbing business and personal taxes.

The prospect of a *meaningful* stimulus from Washington is close for Christmas had economists disavowed off Martin more modest gift list. Not that he was exactly stingy. The big-ticket item was a \$7.7-billion, five-year security package to keep the Canada-U.S. border running smoothly, improve tougher screening of refugees, immigrants and visitors, and boost police, intelligence and military budgets.

Almost nobody was arguing with the need for all that as a response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. More controversial in the package was Martin's surprise move to impose a \$12 each-way levy on air travel, starting April 1, 2002, to raise to \$2.2 billion

over five years for beefing up airline and airport security. The new "air travel security charge" is a tax by another name. Martin did not offer any new cuts to offset it. Instead, he claimed credit for sticking despite the recession, to the five-year, \$100-billion two-stage plan he announced last year for most individual taxpayers, though, the most relief from that plan already took effect on Jan. 1, 2001, when personal taxes were lowered at all income levels.

Beyond security, Martin found money to decrease his pre-holiday budget with a little sleight of hand. Not surprisingly, the Prime Minister's Initiative came out funding—\$185 million over two years for Aboriginal children's programs, including efforts to reduce the blight of fetal alcohol syndrome. And Martin's own longstanding interests in technology and skills development weren't shortchanged, with \$1.1 billion directed to learning and R and D. He also announced

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GRAB LIFE BY THE HORNS



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Canada and the World

that at least \$2 billion from the expected surplus in the 2001-2002 fiscal year, which ends next March 31, will be directed towards a foundation to help pay for infrastructure like highways and sewage plants. At least \$500 million more will be pumped from the surplus into a new fund for African development.

Leadership politics seemed to be in play when it came to picking which pet projects got the nod. Industry Minister Denis Tobin, Martin's rival in the undeclared race to succeed Chretien, looked like the biggest loser. His vision of a nation in which every citizen, no matter how small, would be hooked into high-speed broadband Internet service—a major Liberal election promise—had the wiring pulled out. Martin earmarked a mere \$105 million to the ambitious project—and a work stoppage flowing until 2004. Tobin was left asserting reporters that he had actually won, but had trouble keeping up a brave face. "It isn't a billion dollars," he told *Maclean's*. "But with huge requirements in military spending and an economy in a downturn, to get any money at all is not a bad deal."

Even with discretionary items like Tobin's crossed off the list, federal spending is set to rise at a surprising rate. Not including interest payments on the debt, Ottawa's budget says it will climb 17.5 per cent to \$149.2 billion in three years from last year's \$129.3 billion. Yet much more spending, much faster, would have been needed to satisfy those calling for a short-term stimulus. CBC's World *Maclean's* chief economist Jeff Rubin, a high-profile advocate of a more aggressive interventionist stance, urged Martin to boost spending by \$10 billion this year—far more than the \$2.7 billion in new spending set out in the budget.

But other experts argued that Martin was right not to open the federal spending faucet—and shunt Ottawa back into deep deficits. Phyllis Cooper, chief economist for BMO Nedberg Burns, said dramatic reductions this year in interest rates on both Canada and the U.S., combined with the expected Washington stimulus package, might be enough to make this downturn less punishing than the 1992-1993 recession. "We've got an enormous amount of monetary stimulus in the pipeline, and we will get the benefit of an enormous amount of fiscal stimulus in

the United States—without having to pay for it," Cooper said.

The overwhelming importance of the U.S. economy is nothing new, of course. Fully one-third of Canada's gross domestic product comes from selling into the U.S. market. But the combination punch of the Sept. 11 attacks and the recession has served as a sharp reminder of Canada's heavy reliance on southbound exports and good relations with its mighty neighbour. While keeping border crossings as open as possible to trade was a top budget priority, Foreign Affairs Minister John Manley finalized a far-reaching deal with U.S. Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge to create a shared system for keeping track of everybody who enters and leaves both countries.

The central place of the United States in the global economy is not just an issue for Canada. "If the U.S. goes into recession, most of the rest of the world will too," said Cooper. "And if the U.S. is booming, most of the rest of the world will follow." (One measure of American clout: BMO's Rubin Burns estimates U.S. stock exchanges account for 58 per cent of all the wealth invested in world markets, compared with 18 per cent for continental Europe, 10 per cent for Britain, eight per cent for Japan and just two per cent for Canada.) As the U.S. recovery stumbles about midway through 2002, the question is whether Canada will keep pace. Stephen W. Rubin argues that without a made-in-Ottawa boost, Canada risks falling behind. "We were pretty, if we see a U.S. recovery take root, Canada could catch along on its coattails," he said. "But we're going to find that, like in 1990-1991, the recovery here will lag behind."

But Martin argued that Canada is better positioned than that time that it was creating out of the recession a decade ago. Inflation is no longer an issue. Interest rates are at a 41-year low. Federal finances are dramatically improved. "What we have accumulated as a people," he declared, "puts us in a position to take full advantage of the economic recovery when it comes." Confident words from a politician whose track record gave him credibility. But, then again, never has he talked a budget as rich as an American would.

Should the budget have done more to stimulate the economy and boost job growth? **YES** **NO** **NOT SURE**

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ROGERS MEDIA

The big shrug

U.S. giants took over \$35-billion worth of Canadian energy firms in 2001. So who cares?

BY BRIAN BERGMAN in Calgary

In the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, it was not uncommon for Canadian pundits to declare, "We are all American now." As a new year dawns on the Calgary oilpatch, that phrase has taken on a different kind of meaning. One by one over the past seven months, a series of Canadian oil and gas giants fell into American hands, to the point that nearly half the industry is now foreign-controlled. Yet the response, in Calgary and across the country, has been muted. The national business press, for the most part, pored the sales as the natural workings of the free market. Official Ottawa news, citing the days of government intervention in such matters were over. And Calgary's oil and gas bosses dismissed the trend as simply part of a larger business cycle. To borrow a phrase from that famous oilpatch pariah, Pierre Trudeau, who speaks for Canada?

Well, if no one else will, Edmonton's Mid Haring is willing to take a stab at it. Publisher of *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, founding chairman of The Council of Canadians and a prolific author, Haring has been sounding the alarm for years about how, in his view, foreign ownership is eating away at Canadian sovereignty. Haring's new book, *The Wrecking Company: Is It Time to Save Canada?* is to be published in 2002, will return to this theme, including sections devoted to recent trends in the oilpatch. "When you get to much of the industry foreign-controlled, your national priorities get ignored," asserts Haring. "At what point do you abandon your identity to be Canadian?"

The latest American buying spree began in earnest in May with the \$9.9-billion purchase of Gulf Canada Resources Ltd. by Houston-based Conoco Inc. A series of other mega-mergers quickly followed,

including the \$7.2-billion takeover of Anderson Exploration Ltd. by Oklahoma-based Devon Energy Corp., the \$3.3-billion purchase of Canadian Hunter Exploration Ltd. by Houston-based Bathurst Resources Inc., and the \$13.3 billion that Duke Energy Corp. will pay for Vancouver-based pipeline operator Westcoast Energy Inc. Taking into account several smaller mergers, more than \$35 billion in Canadian oil and gas assets fell into American hands during 2001.

Foreign ownership of Canadian oil and gas sector now stands at 48 per cent, up from 33 per cent in late 1999, but considerably below the 74 per cent level that existed in the late 1970s. The Liberal government in Ottawa, which is an outlier in its position regarding ownership concerns by coining the Foreign Investment Review Agency and imposing the National Energy Program, now espouses a hands-off approach. "There will be contributions and synergies from nine to nine," shrugged federal Natural Resources Minister Ralph Goodale following the Gulf Canada oil-off. Four months and several billions of dollars in sales later, Goodale responded to the Westcoast Energy takeover by saying Ottawa's hands were tied by market forces. "If we attempt to build walls around Canada," he said,



Illustration by Michael S. Smith

"you would see a flight of capital that would mean the dramatic underdevelopment and downturn of our energy sector."

To economic nationalists like Haring, Ottawa is part of the problem, not the solution. Haring blames Conservative and Liberal governments alike for abolishing FIRA and signing continental free trade deals that he says left Canada virtually helpless to resist foreign takeovers. If nothing else, Haring feels Canadians—and especially Calgaryans—should be alarmed at the loss of oilpatch head offices. "Any strong, independent country," he says, "needs head offices, not branch plant operations that have to go to another country on bent knees."

But Haring's views carry little currency in Calgary, where investors remain firm of how capital investment and jobs dated up in the 1980s following the imposition

of the widely-disputed National Energy Program. Oilpatchers stress that there is an ebb and flow to foreign ownership in the industry and that a number of factors tilted in favour of the Americans during the first half of 2001. High commodity prices combined with high demand, especially for natural gas, left many U.S. producers flush with cash and on the hunt for new supplies. Low stock-market valuations of Canadian energy companies compared with their American counterparts, along with the weak Canadian dollar, also gave U.S. producers a predatory edge.

Some of these elements have already changed. Oil and gas prices dropped dramatically during the second half of the year and energy demand levelled off as the North American economy slipped into recession. "It isn't surprising that the spate of takeovers has subsided of late," says Mark Pines, an oil and gas analyst with BMO Nesbitt Burns in Calgary. "Cross-border transactions tend to be all cash. Companies that have a close enough balance sheet to do this are becoming more scarce."

WHAT'S LEFT

Major publicly traded energy firms under Canadian control. All are based in Calgary.

COMPANY	MARKET VALUE (\$ MILLION)
Suncor Energy Inc.	\$10.4
Petro-Canada	8.9
PacifiCan Energy Corp.	9.8
Alberta Energy Co.	8.3
Midcon Energy Inc.	7.5
Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.	4.8
Neenac Ltd.	3.7

Source: Pines & Co. Ltd.

Ging Sringham, vice-president of the Calgary-based Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, uses a longer-term prism to play. "In this industry, margins just go on and on," he says. "Small companies grow into mid-sized ones. Mid-sized companies grow to become big. And big companies spin off their non-core assets, allowing smaller companies to start up again." Sringham believes the latter phase is now kicking in, which will see Canadian entrepreneurs formerly associated with some of the takeover targets picking up the ball.

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Mary Janigan

Bullies in the woods

It will be a hollow victory if the United States and Canada finally grope their way to a framework agreement on softwood lumber this month. For Canada, it will mean bowing to pressure by amending its system of forest management under which firms lease Crown land by paying provincially set stumpage fees. Instead, provinces will now adopt some form of the U.S. system of market auctions for timber rights—in return for “unfettered” market access. For the United States, it will mean the triumph of private bullying by the U.S. lumber lobby, deploying the full weight of U.S. trade law. There likely will be no chance to conduct a full examination of resource pricing. Canada will have been forced to change because Washington issued a decree that stumpage fees are subsidies—on grounds that its prices below U.S. market rates for timber—and dumped penalties averaging 32 per cent on our exports. Everyone, except a powerful lobby, is the loser.

We may never know who was right in this centuries-old battle. Stumpage fees are ancient taxes for resource extraction that differ among provinces. They were a key tool of industrial development in the early 20th century because the prospect of long-term, affordable leases encouraged firms to build mills, create jobs and find export markets. They worked only too well: the U.S. now takes \$10 billion per year of our neighbor

Even if Canada finally gets a softwood lumber deal, we may never know who's right—thanks to American tactics

timber—roughly 34 per cent of its needs. Such hefty market share sparked the modern-day round of squabbling in 1982, flooding world trade bodies and U.S. agencies with millions of pages of arguments. Each side can claim limited victories. But, says Michael Hart, distinguished research fellow at Carleton University's Centre for Trade Policy and Law, “there has never been a definitive ruling. This is a delicate issue because what the Americans are really doing is challenging what ours we want to gain from our ownership of resources.”

The question is: does stumpage constitute a subsidy? The World Trade Organization says a subsidy occurs when “revenue that is otherwise due is forgone”—or the government provides “goods and services other than general infrastructure.” It does not specifically deal with a system of widespread public ownership of resources which prevails in many nations other than the U.S. Stumpage is an odd bird. In British Columbia, which accounts for more than half of the exports, leasing contracts require that firms harvest their quota of timber whatever the state of the lumber market. That provision maintains jobs—perhaps unfairly. “We cut more than we should in the down times,” says Simon Fraser University economist John Richards. “The Americans bear the brunt when markets

turn sour. Thus our steady supply worsens their prices.”

But is it a subsidy? Richards says no. The U.S. Coalition for Fair Lumber Imports says yes; it maintains that stumpage fees are 67 per cent to 75 per cent below U.S. market rates—purely so firms can continue to export their enforced harvest in depressed times. Canada has appealed to the WTO over the use of U.S. market rates as the standard for judging how provinces price their resources. Ottawa argues that stumpage fees are fair because firms pay plenty to comply with rules to protect the environment in Canada—and that cost is not included in stumpage. So stumpage fees alone are not a fair gauge of corporate timber costs. “Let’s sell it competitively and find out what happens to the price,” insists coalition lawyer John Raposa. “Clearly the government is giving away raw materials for less than it is worth.”

He cites a 1993 ruling from the WTO’s predecessor in which Canada argued that resource rents were not subsidies. In convoluted language, the panel replied that it wasn’t clear that stumpage “could not include an element of government cost or revenue forgone.” In other words, it didn’t buy Canada’s plea that stumpage was not a subsidy. But it did not assert that it was wrong either. It merely stipulated that more investigation was required.

Canada has also won a few judicial rulings. And it is hard to believe the WTO would rule that every nation must move to U.S.-style market auctions to price its resource exports. Canada might have succeeded in overturning those U.S. penalties at the WTO—with minor changes to its own regime. It is hard to escape the suspicion that much of the problem arises simply because the two systems differ. Almost 95 per cent of Canadian timber is harvested from Crown land; 90 per cent of the U.S. harvest comes from privately owned land. It is disquieting. “This issue represents the first time the Americans interfaced with somebody else’s resource policies anywhere,” says SFU geography professor Roger Hayner. “We have never been able to shake them off.”

The bottom line is that Canada likely will adopt American ways because private U.S. firms used public U.S. law to pursue advantage. Last month, Washington reluctantly agreed to put those laws, which allow firms to force investigations, on the table in future WTO talks. “The Americans take international trade rules and apply them with perverse vengeance,” says Toronto trade lawyer Lawrence Herman. “It has gone too far—and it is being used for protectionist purposes.” Our forestry rules, such as enforced harvests, may need changing—for our own good. But this is no way to tear a neighbour.

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Donald Coxé

Sept. 11's silver lining

Sixty years ago, Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. Admiral Yamamoto managed that operation, but he thought it was a terrible idea. He told the ruling military clique that an attack on Hawaii would unite Americans in an all-out war against Japan that his nation could not win. He was both a great naval commander and a great forecaster.

Americans observed the Pearl Harbor anniversary the same week they observed the three-month anniversary of the bin Laden assault. In the flood of commentary about that coincidence of horrors, no one seemed to remark about the good side of those events.

Pearl Harbor reunited the U.S. into the Second World War. If the Americans had not entered the war, Hitler would have probably defeated Britain and established Nazi rule over all Europe. Japan would have taken control of most of Asia. The world benefit hugely from Pearl Harbor.

What happened within the U.S. was also beneficial. The nation was just emerging from the Depression, and the frantic buildup of American industry for war triggered a boom. The nation came together and finally began to think of itself as a global power that needed to be engaged abroad. After the war, there could be no retreat to Smoot-Hawley protectionism and Fort Sumner America; the U.S. became the prime promoter of global free trade, and NATO put the new superpower into Europe to stay.

Will the killings of 9/11 also prove to have unexpectedly good effects?

To date, the answer is yes. Most obviously, Americans feel good about George W. Bush and he's acting like an excellent war president. How'd that fit for a transformation?

As of 9/10, the U.S. was languishing in recession, although the Federal Reserve didn't know it. Most bond market participants thought the Fed was coming near the end of its period of easing. After five rate cuts—beginning Jan. 3—of half-percentage-point cuts, the cuts announced in June and August had been one-quarter point. Absent, major central banks had been far more cautious than the Fed. The European Central Bank was in a snail, content with its neophylotopia. (That is a technical term that is useful for anything central bankers imagine “thoughts that arise when contemplating one’s novel.”)

Then the planes hit, producing instant devastation to the airline and travel industries. Whatever doubts there had been about the U.S. economy, everybody agreed it was now in recession. (The travel and leisure industries had been the biggest job generators during the 1990s, when they went

down together suddenly, the economy was in crisis.)

The Fed immediately began a series of cuts that slashed the Fed Funds Rate by half—on a Japanese-style 1.75 per cent. The broader measure of U.S. liquidity (M3 plus commercial paper) has grown at a real but 14.7 per cent since 9/11. (For the 13 weeks prior, it had been growing at a minuscule two per cent.) As Milton Friedman has famously observed, when you're trying to analyze the economic outlook, money matters most.

Other central banks joined the parade, including even the European Central Bank. Global liquidity is now growing at a rate that should get us out of recession within weeks. Indeed, the U.S. may well be out of recession already. It was first in among major industrial countries (excepting long-nailed Japan) and will be first to emerge. Without bin Laden, the global economy would still be weakening.

When central banks print money at a rapid clip, stocks usually react in a rapid clip. Stocks collapsed when the American exchanges opened on Sept. 17, and kept falling until the equinox. Since then, they have been on a rise. Why hold on to cash yielding two per cent or less? Stocks may look expensive, but they're got to deliver better returns than that. Don't they?

That stock market recovery has already done lovely things for American consumers. As of 9/11, millions of Americans were either losing their jobs or were worried they would lose their jobs. That grim situation came when they were down big on their stock investments. In particular, no-exempt 401(k) plans, the basis of retirement savings for much of the workforce, had been hit hard by the bear market. (These plans are the American equivalent of employer-sponsored RRSPs.) As of the end of last year, RBC's, the largest operator of 401(k)s, reported that its retirement-plan clients had 81 per cent of their savings in equity funds.

So Americans feel richer and therefore more confident. According to a recent poll, they are the most optimistic about the economy they've been all year. People who feel richer and more confident are more likely to spend in any given Christmas, and there's a good chance they'll do just that.

Bin Laden has restored Americans' feeling about their country, their leadership and each other to the emotional levels of the Second World War—the last time such unity prevailed. Bin Laden, unlike Yamamoto, you made a bad call.

Donald Coxé is a chairman of Harrell Investment Management in Chicago and Toronto-based Jones Herndon Investments.

ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE



THROUGH THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR INITIATIVE

More than 400 volunteers form a human flag at an RCMP Thanksgiving breakfast commemorating the International Year of Volunteers in Nova Scotia.



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Making a Commitment to Get Involved



The Groupsmen of Ville Saint-Lazare were honored at a Government of Canada volunteer award ceremony for their cooperation and support they provided to veterans in Hospital Sainte-Anne.

"The Government of Canada recognizes the need to build partnerships with communities and to renew its relationship with the voluntary organizations that serve and sustain them."

—Her Excellency the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada

A land of strong and vibrant communities, safe streets and healthy, prosperous citizens, Canada has long been recognized as one of the best countries in the world. Many of its millions of people donate time and money to the country's thousands of volunteer organizations.

BRAVO CANADA!

Almost 12 million Canadians—91 per cent of the population aged 15 or older—made financial or in-kind donations, like contributions to a food bank last year. The total amount of financial donations was almost \$5 billion.

Source: National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, Statistics Canada, 1998

The voluntary sector, in turn, encourages people to work together for common causes and helps make our nation the humane and caring place it's recognized to be.

Recognizing the efforts of the voluntary sector

In June 2000, Lucienne Robitaille, president of the Treasury Board of Canada and chair of the group of ministers who guide the Government of Canada's relationship with the voluntary sector, highlighted the importance of the voluntary sector's contribution to the quality of life in Canada by launching a five-year, \$94.6-million Voluntary Sector Initiative (VSI). The initiative's main goals are to strengthen the voluntary sector's ability to meet the challenges of the future and further develop the relationship between the sector and the Government of Canada.

"We need to do more—as a government and as a society—to support the voluntary sector. People who participate as staff or volunteers contribute, without hesitation, to maintaining our social, economic and cultural fabric," said Minister Robitaille.

WHAT IS THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR?

The voluntary sector consists of groups that

- exist to serve a public benefit,
- are self-governing,
- do not distribute profits to members,
- depend to a meaningful degree on volunteers, at a minimum for their board of directors, although many of these organizations rely on paid staff.

Membership or involvement in these organizations is not compulsory and they are independent of, and institutionally distinct from, the formal structures of government and the private sector.

Moving the partnership ahead

"The Voluntary Sector Initiative represents a unique and innovative attempt to better harness the strengths and expertise of both the federal government and Canadian voluntary organizations so that individual Canadians are better served," says Patrick Johnston, president and CEO of the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy and sector co-chair of the VSI joint coordinating committee.

"Both the Government of Canada and the voluntary sector are committed to improving the quality of life of Canadians by using opportunities to work together to achieve common goals," says Kathy O'Hara, assistant secretary, social development, operations, Privy Council Office, and federal government co-chair of the VSI joint coordinating committee.

Working together

Throughout the past year, the VSI has funded a number of initiatives. The most visible are the International Year of Volunteers (IYV) 2001 and the National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (NSGVIP) released during the summer. Recently, \$11.6 million was committed to 21 pilot projects that will help voluntary sector agencies increase their capacity to contribute to federal public policy development. ■

HELP IN A CRISIS



Volunteers staff the food bank at the local mall in Gander, Nfld., helping the people in need.

On September 11, 2001, when the skies were cleared of air traffic following the tragedy in the United States, almost 22,000 weary and frightened travellers on 129 flights were diverted to airports throughout Eastern Canada. Many of those travellers landed in Halifax, where they took comfort from a stranger's smile and the kindness of Canadians who just wanted to help.

"I didn't even have to call them in," said Kelly Martin, the manager of terminal services at Halifax International Airport and the person in charge of the facility's volunteer host program. "They're amazing—they just started showing up to help people. A lot of them worked 24-hour shifts."

In Gander, Nfld., more than 6,500 people arrived almost simultaneously, almost doubling the town's population. Donations immediately began to pour in from grocery stores and restaurants. Major Alfred Richardson, assistant commander for the Salvation Army, turned the local community centre into a food depot.

STRENGTHENING THE SECTOR'S CAPACITY

The capacity of any voluntary sector organization depends on a combination of well-researched knowledge of its needs and abilities, effective information management and technology, and the right people.

Sol Kasimer, CEO of YMCA Canada and co-chair of the joint table addressing the issue of voluntary sector capacity says, "We need research and information on the sector to meet future challenges. To begin our study, we'll be undertaking the first-ever national survey of voluntary sector organizations."

Don McCreesh, senior vice-president, corporate human resources at Celestica and a volunteer with the YMCA and other organizations, is the co-chair of the information management/information technology joint table. "Having computers and Web sites is a great beginning, but we have to go further. We have to help organizations easily access critical information and share ideas and success stories," he says.

Suzanne Lawson, the national executive director of the ALS Society of Canada and the co-chair of the awareness joint table, says her group has an even more fundamental task. "Our goal is to develop an understanding among Canadians of the impact of the voluntary sector," she says. "We've already learned one thing: telling Canadians isn't enough. We have to engage them in discovering what it is we do." ■

AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

VSI Project—Sectoral Involvement in Departmental Policy Development: Justice Canada and the Aboriginal Women's Justice Consultation

This past September, the Métis National Council of Women, Inc., Pokemunk from Women's Association and the Native Women's Association of Canada hosted three days of meetings, which included Aboriginal women from across Canada as well as federal government officials, to discuss justice issues. The organizations want to improve their policy capacity, create a network and build a relationship with the Government of Canada. The group is now designing a policy agenda for the future.

SETTING THE STANDARD

VSI Project—Sectoral Involvement in Departmental Policy Development: Health Canada and Voluntary Organizations Working in Health

Both Health Canada and voluntary health organizations want to increase the participation of these organizations in developing health policy for Canadians. A consortium of voluntary sector groups is working closely with Health Canada to give volunteers and professional staff the tools they need—everything from seminars and mentoring to study guides for participants—to help them play a role in policy making. This knowledge, when fine-tuned, will be shared as "best practices."

A SNAPSHOT OF THE SECTOR

- 80,000 registered charities
- One billion hours contributed each year
- 100,000 non-profit organizations
- 890 billion in annual revenues
- 1.3 million Canadians employed
- \$109 billion in assets
- 6.5 million Canadian volunteers through organizations
- 22 million Canadians donate

Voluntary sector organizations range in size from the United Way of Canada to Block Parents.



Volunteers at the Calgary International Festival. Artistic in the foreground is the sculpture of a child's dream.

International Year of Volunteers: The Value of One, the Power of Many



Volunteers in the World. Clean-up/We take time out to help for its cause.

Since the United Nations launched the International Year of Volunteers last December, Human Resources Development Canada, the Department of Canadian Heritage and Volunteer Canada have worked together to make the year a success. Many events and activities, including National Volunteer Week last April, have demonstrated the value of one and the power of many.

"The International Year of Volunteers has allowed us to not only highlight the spirit of volunteerism in Canada," says Jane Stewart, minister of Human Resources Development, "but it has also been an opportunity to recognize just how important the voluntary sector is to the quality of life in this country."

GREAT SPORTS IN EDMONTON

Thousands of volunteers helped roll out the red carpet for athletes, their coaches and families from around the world when Edmonton hosted the eighth International Amateur Athletic Federation Championships in Athletics.

Nearly 10,000 volunteers took part in both the opening and closing ceremonies. Volunteers were trained to handle every position imaginable: from driver, interpreter and greeter to security officer and envelope shuffler.

BELIEVING IN A CAUSE

Almost all volunteers said the reason they volunteered was to help a cause they believe in. About eight out of 10 volunteers wanted to put their skills and experience to use. More than two-thirds said they had been personally affected by the cause supported by their organization of choice.

BARRIERS TO VOLUNTEERING

Lack of time was the reason given most frequently by volunteers for not volunteering more (76 per cent) and by non-volunteers for not volunteering at all (69 per cent). The next most frequently given reason was being unwilling to make a year-round commitment (34 per cent of volunteers; 46 per cent of non-volunteers).

Source: National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, Statistics Canada, 2000

Promoting volunteerism through partnerships

"Among the most significant and lasting benefits of this past year are the partnerships that have been forged between the Government of Canada, the voluntary sector, community agencies and the private sector," says Sheila Copps, minister of Canadian Heritage. "These relationships are a lasting legacy."

Another notable achievement is the acceptance of the Canadian Code for Volunteer Involvement by hundreds of voluntary-sector agencies and organizations. The code sets out standards for the engagement and support of volunteers.

Getting volunteers involved

The International Year of Volunteers has also served to improve the ability of organizations to involve volunteers in what they do. "IYV's success will be measured not just by the number of volunteers recognised, the range of resources made available and the research produced," says Paddy Bowen, executive director of Volunteer Canada, "but by the extent to which all of these activities encourage more Canadians to volunteer." ■

Canada Commits to Voluntary Sector with a Landmark Accord and Volunteerism Initiative



Hundreds gather in Ottawa to witness the signing of the accord.

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien announced on December 5, 2001 a landmark accord between the Government of Canada and Canada's voluntary sector spelling out the values, principles and commitments that will underlie their future relationship.

"This accord signifies the Government of Canada's recognition of the invaluable contribution of the voluntary sector to the Canadian way of life," said the Prime Minister. "The 180,000 charities and non-profit organizations that make up the sector provide many of the services that enrich our communities and act as a network to mobilize Canadians in time of need."

The Prime Minister also announced funding of \$50 million over five years for the Canada Volunteerism Initiative, a new program to strengthen volunteerism and for data collection, analysis and dissemination to improve our understanding of volunteerism's impact on Canada's economic and social well-being.

"We are delighted at the recognition and opportunities the Prime Minister has announced today," said Marlene Deboisbrun, chair of the voluntary sector steering group. "These initiatives are evidence that our contribution is valued, and that our relationship with the government will continue to grow."

PHOTO: JEFF MARY CANADA

The Canada Volunteerism Initiative: Making a Difference

Legacy of the International Year of Volunteers 2001

"Canadians care about each other—as a nation we stand out in this regard. We believe in strengthening our communities and cultural diversity," says Sheila Copps, minister of Canadian Heritage. "Volunteerism truly reflects the values, commitment and openness of Canadians. That is why every day millions of Canadians volunteer to make this country a better place to live."

Canadians are generous and caring

Canada is a community of people who celebrate the value of active citizenship. It is a value that has developed and nourished a vibrant voluntary sector and strong communities.

"Think about the people coaching kids with disabilities to help them achieve their goals, helping those new to Canada to learn a new language, and providing assistance and comfort to seniors in need. From childhood to the senior years, we all benefit from the dedication of volunteers. Our social, economic and cultural fabric is enriched by volunteerism," says Jane Stewart, minister of Human Resources Development.

Building a Canada Volunteerism Initiative

According to Colleen Kelly of Volunteer Vancouver, who is co-chair of the joint table that developed the Canada Volunteerism Initiative, "the initiative is an opportunity to build some of the support Canada needs to encourage a vital and active voluntary sector."

Recognizing the need to share expertise, the Canada Volunteerism Initiative will develop a regionally based, nationally connected volunteer resource network. It will also provide support for research on the dynamics of volunteerism and innovative pilot projects to develop and test new methods of encouraging.

SUNNYBROOK'S SUNSHINE



A youthful bounce in their step and ear-to-ear smiles are the hallmarks of student volunteers at Toronto's Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centres. Since the mid-1960s, young volunteers have brightened the corridors of the centres' three hospital sites as well as the lives of their patients. Last year alone, more than 400 student volunteers contributed nearly 30,000 hours of volunteer time.

"Volunteers have a significant impact on patient-focused care," says Beth Singleton, coordinator, volunteer resources. "They definitely improve the experience of patients, residents and their families."

sustaining and supporting volunteerism. To encourage Canadians to volunteer, a promotion and outreach campaign will illustrate how volunteers contribute to Canadian society. ■

For more information:

- Voluntary Sector Initiatives: www2-ide.gc.ca
 - IYV Canada: www.iyvcanada.org
 - 1-800-O-CANADA (1-800-422-6222)
 - TTY/TDD: 1-800-465-3735
 - Volunteer Opportunities Exchange (VOYE) www.voye.org
- Call 1-800-470-0401 or visit www.volunteers.ca to find the nearest volunteer centre for your community.

A ROYAL SCHOLARSHIP

To celebrate the 50th anniversary and 50th year of Canada's youth, the Government of Canada, in partnership with the voluntary sector, has created the Prince of Wales Community Leader Scholarship in honour of the Prince's visit to Canada in April. On December 5, 2001, the Government of Canada announced the one-time award of \$3,000 to each of the following winners: Janet Wong, Anne Chan, Gregory Pheasant, Chantel Karpow, Michael Doolery, Farah Akmal, Kara Tackley, Emily Reid, Karla Benoit, Sulema MacDougall, Ashley Dean, Anca Vlasar and Michelle Simons-Dawd.

Therese Casgrain Volunteer Award

Call for Nominations

The Therese Casgrain Volunteer Award was recently launched by Jane Stewart, minister of Human Resources Development Canada. Therese Casgrain's pioneering spirit and social commitment contributed to the advancement of social causes. Nominations for this award will have dedicated a lifetime to volunteerism for the well-being of their fellow citizens. All nominations must be received by March 1, 2002.

For more information, contact 1-800-O-CANADA or visit www.volunteeraward.gc.ca.

The Accord: Guide to a Better Relationship

"Over the next few years, the Government intends to invest time, energy and more than \$94 million in developing a new way of working together with the voluntary sector—a way that will improve our ability to cooperate and enhance our mutual capacity to produce results. One essential element is the development and implementation of an accord to act as a guide to a better relationship."

—Lucienne Buillault, president of the Treasury Board of Canada and chair of the group of partners on the voluntary sector

Canada's most fundamental government services—education, health care, assistance to the disadvantaged—began as initiatives in the voluntary sector. Today, staff and volunteers from thousands of voluntary organizations and government agencies and departments—people just like you—continue to work hard to make Canada the prosperous, inclusive country it has become.

A strong relationship between the public and voluntary sectors is important not only to our quality of life, but also to our economic strength and the vitality of our democratic institutions. Quite simply, it makes Canada one of the best countries in the world.

Both sides have recognized a need to formalize their relationship in a way that will strengthen mutual understanding and result in more cooperative ways of working together.

A truly Canadian document, the accord is based on values important to all of us: democracy, active citizenship, equality, diversity, inclusion and social justice.

"The accord is much more than just a symbolic agreement between the two sectors," says Bill McCloskey, an assistant commissioner at the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency and co-chair of the joint table responsible for drafting the accord. "The document sets out common values, principles and commitments that will shape our future relationship."

Sector co-chair Lynne Taspin, CEO of the

Canadian Co-operative Association, agrees, adding that although the accord is not a legal document, the commitment from both sides is clear. "The accord states that we will work together to put this plan into action so we can achieve our shared objectives. To do this effectively, we will develop in the months ahead the tools required to make a lasting change in how we do business together." To quote the document itself, the accord is the "beginning of a



Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Minister Lucienne Buillault (seated) and Marlene Delbecq-Bridel, chair of the voluntary sector steering group, sign the accord.

journey". It is one that will advance through collaboration and cooperation every step of the way. This country was built on our desire to help one another and it is that commitment to the well-being of others that will keep it strong ■

Trends

BY BRIAN BETHUNE

Parents who have yet to strap on their armour and venture out into the holiday toy-buying fray—and at this late date you know who you are—should take heart. There's no single must-have item dominating children's wish lists this year, not like 1996, when Frederickton retail employee Robert Waller suffered a broken rib after frantically struggling to hold in a jinx of seven Tickle-Me Elmo dolls. And the good news doesn't stop with physical safety in store sales. As Joyce Pettie, president of T. J. Whitty's

wooden toys, is the exact replica of a pre-war Pinet's grandmother—the Tison Juliet Whitney commemorated in the company name—gave Pinet's mother and uncle for Christmas in 1938. Consisting of 16 black blocks and 246 wooden coloured marbles, it has won awards and recommendations from parenting magazines for two years running. Even the box-up on the original drawing, which was the work of well-known Canadian-born illustrator Norman Mulla Price, also crafted with creating the famous RCA Victor logo of a dog listening to "his master's voice."

Kids from 4 and up love it, using the mar-

Shrinky Dinks Maker (\$35). Like the original—invented in 1953 by two Milwaukee housewives as a Cub scout project—the new Shrinky Dinks involves colouring, cutting, and then shrinking plastic (no hot lamp) into pendants and other knock-boules. The make-it, as gush as the Seventies themselves, are highly popular among girls and older especially in the U.S. where, Spex Master spokesman Harold Clinick says, the original is considered "a piece of Americana." But like the post-Sept. 11 surge in demand for police and firefighter toys south of the border, the American craze for Shrinky Dinks is

TOYING WITH TRADITION

A retro theme runs through many of the season's most popular gifts for kids



The pink jigsaw puzzle continues to roll along with Hotwheels Barbie, even as some girls—or their mothers—opt for a Jolly Dolly or Greasy Girl (top middle). Shrinky Dinks is back from the '70s, but the ultra-modern Game Boy Advance and Zee Tootz also are new

Traditional Toys, notes, "There's definitely a retro thrust running through the whole toy market." That means infectious parents can be guided by what they liked as children. And best of all, at least for those for whom money is an object, some of the hottest toys out there—ones that kids, as well as experts, like—are outright bargains.

The first product from Pinet's Victoria-based company, Wooden Marbles and Blocks (\$50 in cardboard container, \$60 in

bles and double-sided draped blocks to create whatever architectural wonders take their fancy. Retailers, including some very high-end ones such as Bonnet's Museum of Fine Arts and www.bonnet.com, list its elegant style too. Canadians can find it at more than 100 independent retailers across the country (based on www.bonnet.com), and at Lee Valley Tools.

Spin Master Toys of Toronto is another small Canadian firm that has raised the bar for its current success. The Incredible

not fully matched here, and the list is still rapidly available in most major Canadian toy chains.

Even toys tied to the phenomenally successful Harry Potter franchise will be off if they also echo old favourites. Danish black-glass giant Lego, a childhood staple for seven decades, leads the way. Its wonderfully detailed—and rather expensive—model of Hogwarts Castle (\$140) may be the year's closest equivalent to Tickle-Me Elmo. No injuries among shoppers or store

Trends

raffers have yet been reported, but Harry's school and the crimson *Hogwarts Express* into (574) that brings him there on bevery hard to find—even Lego's own Web site won't promise delivery before the end of March. (Other Potter toys, like Mattel's *Levinator Challenge* game (\$55)—in which one or more players race one another and the clock while maneuvering a ball through obstacles—are still plentiful on more shelves.)

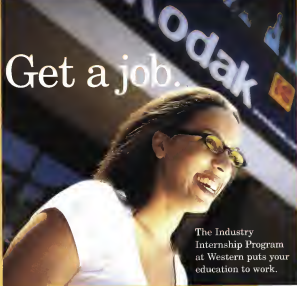
Lego also makes another of the year's best-sellers, the very affordable *Bionicles* (\$149). These warriors for good have exotic names like Kopaka or Lewa and a complicated storyline, but their true appeal is that children construct the *Bionicles* themselves, making the toys more satisfying than other straight-from-the-box action

one toy seller called it, continues to sell steadily, although nowhere near as well as the pink juggernaut itself. The latest must-have from Mattel's venerable franchise is *Namachor Barbie* (\$31), which features two outfits—Snowflake and, naturally, Sugarplum Princess—as well as clothes for Ken and Kelly and other accessories. *Divin Stars* (\$31), four big-eyed, prancing cats, interactive dolls who "just want to be your friend," are also making less of a splash, and interest for the company.

Younger girls, and their parents, are captivated by German manufacturer Zapf Creation's *Be Happy Jolly Dolly* (\$31). Not only does the endear herself by giggling when her tummy is tickled, but there is no wardrobe line to strain parents' wallets. Three-year-olds of both

sex—with a larger screen and sharper images than its predecessor—sold 50,000 units in Canada within five days of its June launch, and the sales rate has not slowed down much, if at all, since then. Of the annual flood of games aimed for play systems and PCs, Microsoft's popular *Zoo Tycoon* (\$40) stands out for kids and parents who don't like shoot-'em-ups. An absorbing logic and puzzle-solving game, it requires players to build a zoo on a limited budget. Considering the animals get odd or cranky if their particular needs aren't met, it's not a bad introduction to pet care either.

But the season's coolest toy may well be the *Praxar* (\$75), which combines all of the season's themes: Fisher-Price's "hand-held digital creativity system" is at once electronic, retro, relatively inexpensive—



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Big-eyed Divin Stars dolls are top sellers, while the younger set likes to draw with *Shave and Blue* or build with the season's retro hit *Wheeler Marbles and Blocks* (top middle and right); *Harry Potter* is as popular in games as in books, but *Bionicles* rule the market

figures. And Lego seems to have produced enough of them that, despite unexpected demand—*Bionicles* were aimed at seven- and eight-year-olds, but are lauded after by older boys too—they can still be found on store shelves.

If there is a female equivalent to the *Bionicles*, it's the *Groovy Gid* rag doll (\$15)—also known as the anti-Barbie—and her accompanying clothes, furniture and pet. Now several years old, "the doll of choice for moms who hate Barbie," as

seems who enjoy the oh-so-slow pace of the *Shave and Blue* TV show also like Fisher-Price's electronic *Learn to Draw* (\$40) version. A series of three drawings appear on a LCD screen, and as the child copies them, he or she can work out what the mystery object is.

Just as Lego's *Hogwarts* model shows that not every hit this season is cheap, *Game Boy Advance* (\$140) proves that they're not all old-fashioned either. Nintendo's new handheld electronic game sys-

tem—and frequently sold out. It's essentially an updated *Each A Sketch*—with a touch-sensitive LCD screen, drawing styles, music and other special effects. The warning, however, the basic unit is sold without any of the \$17 software plug-ins required, something not immediately obvious from the package. Still, it's a marvelous device that gives kids 4 and older hundreds of imaginative ways to truly play by creating images and not simply reacting to them.

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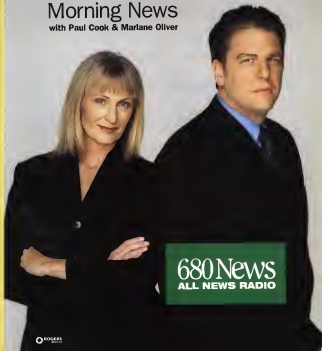
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Books

Fare for political junkies

Recent titles can fill the holiday-season gap

BY JOHN GEDDES

The floor is littered with wrapping paper, the kids are manifesting by their new GameCube, and the political junkie, busy with egg nog, turns to the TV for a little diversion. Endless loops of *Murphy on 34th Street* (hah!) and *It's a Wonderful Life* (humbbug). No use searching through yesterday's papers again, with parliament and legislature depressingly silent. But wait—wait! there's a book about politics, politicians or policy? A quick rummage under the socks, the odd-scattered toasters, the horde of someone else's beard of archery, and—ha, ha, ha—our enthusiasm is lit. The long, dark, political-news-free holiday just got a little brighter.

For those hunting down the right holiday gift for that political someone who can't let politics alone, here are a few recent Canadian offerings.

The most unambiguously pro-politics book of the year is *The Life: The Seductive Call of Politics* (Vintage, \$35) by Steve Pollak. As host of TVOntario's *Swire 2*, the first-time author is steeped in the Ontario scene, but this collection of political portraits ranges across Canada. Pollak sets the tone in his introduction, declaring that he likes the "vast majority" of the politicians he has met. He's not kidding. Early on, he tells us he is "scarcely angry" by the modesty of Bill Davis and Peter Leacock, two former premiers now universally known for downplaying their own accomplishments. And it's not just that Pollak has a soft spot for older men. He leads Tony Clement, the Ontario Tory cabinet minister now retiring to replace Mike Harris, as that rare politician "who seriously thought through some of the truly big issues" and as "the closest thing to a boy scout you'll find in public life."

Like friends, too much of the old-fashioned stuff is hard to digest. Even the academy of electoral district doesn't cut



Pollak doesn't judge anyone

Pollak's overweening Steve, Audrey McLaughlin led the NDP to near-oblivion in the 1993 federal campaign, but Pollak looks to her gladly response

"She rolled up her sleeves and tried to remember why the voters of the Yukon sent her to Ottawa." If *The Life* is naive, though, it can also be charming, even surprising. Pollak's enthusiasm for just about every sort of political impulse seems to get his subjects talking. But he is so resolutely nonjudgmental that some revelations are all but passed over. In one passage, Lynn McLeod, the Ontario Liberal leader defeated by Harris' Conservatives in the 1995 election, thinks back on some tough Tory TV ad aimed two in that campaign, and says, "They were winning by then. Why did they need to rub it in?" It's barely complete for any further campaign, but Pollak simply lets it stand.

To a tighter look on campaign life, *Kicking Ass in Canadian Politics* (Random House, \$34.95) by Warren Kinsella holds promise. The author, a Liberal campaign operative, reports with unflagging pride that he has been called "the Prince of Darkness" for his tactics. He starts early on that "negative and nameless work." But then something unexpected happens: his book unambiguously reaches quite the opposite lesson. Kinsella starts off by taking a close look at the notorious 1993

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ROGERS
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Books

They TV ad that mocked Jean Chrétien's appearance—and demonstrates how that nasty bit of work badly backfired. (He suggests the Tories might have been better off sticking with the ad rather than pulling it, but that argument is hardly persuasive.) Kinsella seems to admire a more seriously negative Tory ad from last year—a spot that parodied negative “K-tel” ads while listing alleged Liberal “lies.” But that one didn't pay off either.

If his adversaries don't get far by “going negative,” what about the campaign Kinsella worked on? He does offer a revealing, first-hand account of how the Liberals came up with their own TV advertising in last fall's election. Some tough spots attacking Canadian Alliance leader Stockwell Day's positions on health care, tax relief and gun control were drafted, but they never aired. The Liberals went handily with milder material. Even when Kinsella tells history, he comes up mostly with examples that refute his



He fails to prove negative works

thesis. He recounts how pioneering negative radio ads by R. B. Bennett's Conservatives failed to put a dent in Maclean's King's Liberals in 1935. It's as if Kinsella just can't help but undercut his own guys' first-hand thesis.

If politics comes off looking better than expected in *Kicking Ass*, it's the voting public that comes in for praise in *Searching for Certainty Inside the New Canadian Mood* (Doubleday \$35.95). Co-author

Darrell Bricker, a veteran pollster with Ipsos-Reid, and Edward Greenspan, political editor and columnist with *The Globe and Mail*, set out to discover what Canadians are like in these days of globalization, the Internet and business-casual attire. The answer: wonderful. “A bum rating represents a good metaphor for the Canadian way,” they gush. “We are good neighbours, but we like strong fences as well. Self-reliance and mutual responsibility make up the twin linings of the Canadian mindset.” If the smugness of Canada's virtues is laid on a little thick, the analysis goes more convincing where it is more precise. There are deft observations about why Tim Hortons survived while T. Eaton Co. Ltd. went down. The chapter on how universal health care became the bedrock of Canada's “search for certainty” hits on something essential.

A people as fine as the Canadians Bricker and Greenspan describe surely deserve a fully functioning democracy. But *The Friendly Dictatorship* (McClelland & Stewart, \$32.95) by Jeffrey Simpson betrays our lack of openness in this era of federal Liberal hegemony. *The Globe and Mail's* veteran national affairs columnist draws on his deep understanding of how Ottawa works to examine the disconcerting reality of politics without a viable government-in-waiting on the opposition benches. Simpson waxes with unanchored authority on how patronage underpins the Prime Minister's almost unchecked power. He takes the decline in voter turnout seriously—and leaves the reader wondering why this disheartening trend is so little discussed. And he offers solutions, including a new way of electing MPs. Simpson's style is not sporadic, but he never talks down to the reader. A momentary builds as he marshals his facts. Read through the holidays; this book will leave the true political addict looking forward to the return of Parliament if only to reveal more knowledge in its dysfunction.



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Entertainment Notes



Hendrix was very loud, and highly original.

When Ottawa became Experienced

His guitar playing still sounds. And many of his legendary live performances, like the one at Woodstock, are still best-selling albums. But for Jimi Hendrix fans, it's not enough. Thirty-one years after his death, the guitarist remains one of the most bootlegged artists of all time, with hundreds of illegal recordings of his concerts on the market. Now, even his estate has got in on the act. Just released on the Hendrix family's own Dagger Records is *Live at Ottawa*, a 99-minute recording of a concert the Jimi Hendrix Experience gave at Ottawa's Capital Theatre on March 13, 1968. Full of live riffs, inimitable guitar turnings and occasionally awkward stage banter, the recording is a remarkable affair. At one point, Hendrix is heard urging the crowd to applaud, so that the band's girlfriends wouldn't think they'd blown it in Ottawa. Some thought they had. A review later the *Ottawa Citizen*—included in the CD

package—carries the headline, "Guitar wizard bombs at Capital Theatre."

But Canadian musicians who heard Hendrix on that 1968 tour have a much different view. Bruce Cockburn, then in a psychedelic rock band named Ottawa that opened for the Experience at Montreal's Paul Saint-Archa, recalls being amazed by Hendrix's guitar work—and his band's volume. "They played the drums, which I'd never seen before. And they had to have three huge guitar amps to compete with the drums," adds Cockburn. "I remember watching Hendrix and thinking how great he was. He became a huge influence on the electric side of what I do." Chuck Beal, whose folk-rock group The Prayers played with Hendrix on a bill at Toronto's CNE Coliseum, remembers being struck by the guitarist's energy. "What Hendrix did was unlike anything anyone else was doing at the time. He was simply operating at a different place than all the rest of us."

Voyageur voyeurism

Something about abandoning modern cameras and distractions is proving popular with Canadian TV audiences. Following on the heels of *Pioneer Quest*, in which two couples heaved the Manitoba rough with nothing but old-time tools and fortitude, producer Jamie Brown has named his lens on the 19th-anniversary airing on History Television (beginning Jan. 6 at 9 p.m.), Brown trails eight Canadians over two months as they assemble a hulking replica of an 1849 fur boat, 1,200 km north from the Red River in Winnipeg to York Factory, Ontario, site of a Hudson's Bay Co. trading post.

Don't bother tuning in if you swear those tense interpersonal moments that are the stock of much reality TV: the drama lies predominantly in the physical challenge. The voyagers—aged 25 to 45—contend with everything from muddy terrain to backbreaking portages. But most difficult, says RoseAnna Schick, a 33-year-old Winnipeg communications consultant and the only woman on board, "was the mental challenge—keeping in the right mindset." By journey's end, however, she'd so successfully risen to the occasion that it was a week before she could get behind the wheel of her car.

—Sue Ferguson



It's not just a boat race.

To really feel good

When it comes to clear thinking about the human condition, you can't beat the ancient Greeks. So Jimi Hendrix demonstrates in his loud, deeply appealing new work, *Made for Music*.

ness (covering the showing of life with Aristotle [Aristotle, 232 pages, \$23.95]). The founder of Platonism, the celebrated international network of universities for the disabled band in France,



Vander records the contemporary rock of self-love and "hearting grief" and satisfying path toward happiness. According to Aristotle—Platonism was a common theme in his work—

rational thinking about the nature of self-love is a profound re-evaluation of what we consider happiness to be. True happiness, Aristotle maintains, involves the unfolding of each's unique

personality in knowledge, in service to others and the truly happy philosophical contemplation of the truth.

Vander, son of former governor general Georges Vanier, also pulls out the Greek's shortcomings, notably on justice that excluded women, slaves and the handicapped. The latter implies a sensitive sense of Christian love and belief in the importance of all people. His book is stimulating, generous ideas pour from it. Read and shoulder above the eternal pillars of heart self-help manuals. —John Breen

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Entertainment Notes

Jewels in the crown

Canada's grand hotels, monuments and the railway age, are among the country's most recognized landmarks. Six of them, in fact, have been designated National Historic Sites. *Gems of the North* (Lynn Images), a lavishly illustrated history edited by Barbara Chisholm, makes it clear why. The facts provided are interesting enough. (In the 1920s, guests would leave \$50,000-deposits for three-month stays at the Banff Springs Hotel.) But the photos—at best a project that also includes a future-length documentary that will air in February—are truly extraordinary. They include the Duke of Cornwall's 8th bodyguards standing stiffly, and inconspicuously, to attention in the Rockies in 1901 and Sir Wilfrid Laurier's funeral procession passing by a black-draped Chateau Laurier in Ottawa in 1919.

Best-Sellers

Fiction	Illustrations	UNIT 100
1. ELIAN COMAN, <i>Under the Night Sky</i> (3)	1	
2. BURNING PROGRESSIVE COUNTRY LITERATURE, <i>NAKED</i> , New York (12)	2	
3. HENRIETTA, <i>In the Heart of the Matter</i> (12)	3	
4. THE FIRST CROSS, <i>Deep in the Heart</i> (12)	4	
5. THE CRIME SCENE, <i>Deep in the Heart</i> (12)	5	
6. RAIN BONES, <i>Deep in the Heart</i> (12)	6	
7. BURNING PROGRESSIVE COUNTRY LITERATURE, <i>NAKED</i> (12)	7	
8. THE CORRECTIONS, <i>Under the Night Sky</i> (3)	8	
9. THE CORRECTIONS, <i>Under the Night Sky</i> (3)	9	
10. THE ASH GARDEN, <i>Deep in the Heart</i> (12)	10	

Nonfiction

1. THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY, <i>Under the Night Sky</i> (3)	1	
2. COUNTRY PROGRESSIVE COUNTRY LITERATURE, <i>NAKED</i> (12)	2	
3. COUNTRY PROGRESSIVE COUNTRY LITERATURE, <i>NAKED</i> (12)	3	
4. THE FIRST CROSS, <i>Deep in the Heart</i> (12)	4	
5. BURNING PROGRESSIVE COUNTRY LITERATURE, <i>NAKED</i> (12)	5	
6. RAIN BONES, <i>Deep in the Heart</i> (12)	6	
7. BURNING PROGRESSIVE COUNTRY LITERATURE, <i>NAKED</i> (12)	7	
8. THE CORRECTIONS, <i>Under the Night Sky</i> (3)	8	
9. THE CORRECTIONS, <i>Under the Night Sky</i> (3)	9	
10. THE ASH GARDEN, <i>Deep in the Heart</i> (12)	10	

(1) Works on file
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The next prime minister?

The foreign minister's office has the best view in the nation's capital. John Manley's huge corner office in the Lester B. Pearson Building at 125 Sussex Drive overlooking the grand sweep of the Ottawa River onto the Guinness Hills of Quebec. Alongside his computer is a kitschy mother-of-pearl re-creation, "Bethlehem 2000"—a gift from Yasser Arafat that is even more amusing, confesses the recipient, since the giver had given the same gift as a present a year earlier.

When did you decide you wanted to become prime minister?

"I haven't decided that I don't. I haven't decided that I do. I probably will be on the ballot, but you know I'm not compelled to do it. I have a life."

Nogardens and that (in every French soldier's) backpack note a marshall's living?

"John Crookier was more colourful. He said that anyone who had anything between that can wanted the top job."

Well, only when you enter politics, you would like to get to the top. But that's a natural ambition for a capable person?

"You know that wasn't sort of my walk through life. I mean, I was interested in politics since I was small, but I'm not quite so driven to feel that I had to have the top job. I think I have the possibility of achieving it and am going to do what I need to do to be able to make that choice when the time comes. But I do really mean that I have a life and I can be quite happy without it. I have had the last two months of being the RCMP with me all the time. I am not sure I enjoy being under house arrest."

Speaking of your active life, when did you start to race?

"I became really serious about it three years ago. I was 49 and I couldn't afford a sports car and I thought—I want to run a marathon. So I bought good shoes and I got into a training program and I am bloody-minded enough that I decided that I would do it."

Was the New York Marathon the first one?

"No, my third one. I'd just been in the Middle East for seven days. But I figured that I had to do something to maintain fitness and having the discipline of facing a marathon is a good way to make yourself roll out of bed in the morning when you would otherwise not want to."

Your predecessor, Lloyd Austin, was the advocate of the "left-jawer" philosophy. I take it you don't agree with that?



"Well, I am not quite sure what the definition is, but I think a country's influence in the world has to do with a combination of things. One element of it clearly is diplomatic skills. Another element of it is overseas development assistance, the money you put into solving the world's problems. I believe a third element is what I guess you could call hard power—and you need a combination of all those. We have had to put shape and people's lives on the line in the conflict."

But the auditor general has just said your troops are badly equipped to do the job. Her report was pretty devastating.

"Well, there is no doubt we are going to have to put money into defence. We are also going to have to persuade Canadians that this is something that we need to do."

You don't think the public has a perception now that the military forces we have are undermanned, badly equipped?

"I don't know if I have seen any polling of what the public perceives in. What I know is that when you ask people what their priorities for government spending are, defence doesn't rank that highly, neither does foreign aid, neither does diplomacy for that matter."

Now Russia has been brought into the NATO 19, making it the so-called 19-plus-one. Was Canada one of the veterans, the big pushers of that?

"I'm told that we were launched in it and a paper that our people put together and circulated at NATO back in November was one of the first things that started this."

But if some of your diplomats were the first to push this—you're the boss of all the diplomats. Wouldn't it have to flow from you?

"Yes, I'm responsible for it. It wasn't my idea, it was I am saying, I won't take credit for it. I will take the blame for it."

Speaking of the leadership, do you have an expectation, people out there raising money, like everyone else?

"There are people asking me to run. But we haven't tried to take over the Marston Young Liberals or anything like that. To my knowledge, nobody has offered money. I think it's still too soon. I mean, if it happens sometime, then I am not ready, but I think that is still a good distance out in the future and there are some people who tell me they can raise money and I will have to see that out because I don't have money of my own to burn."




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